Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-035
Tuesday
22 February 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-035

CONTENTS

22 February 1994

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Grachev Begins Nagorno-Karabakh Mediation Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Further on Talks *[TURAN]* 1
EU Resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Hailed *[SNARK]* 1
Butrus-Ghali Sends Letter to Shevardnadze, Yeltsin *[Tbilisi Radio]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Draft on Ukraine Joining Economic Union Complete *[INTERFAX]* 3
Joint Baltic Military Exercises Conducted *[ETA]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Feb 3
Press Review for 22 Feb 4

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin Stresses Need for Political Settlement in Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Bosnia on Phone *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Further on Conversation *[INTERFAX]* 5
Yeltsin, Kohl Agree on Need for Summit on Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Yeltsin Favors More Active UN Role *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Kostikov Says Yeltsin Bolstered by Bosnia Initiative *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Yeltsin 'Satisfied' With Initiative *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Churkin on Possible Dangers Facing Sarajevo *[INTERFAX]* 6
Denies Possibility of Troops in Macedonia *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Interviewed on Sarajevo Agreement *[Moscow TV]* 7
Churkin Arrives in Belgrade, Issues Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Comments on Present Situation *[Moscow TV]* 8
Says Air Strikes Might Disrupt Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Meets UN Representative in Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Recounts Talks With Bosnian Serb Leadership *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Says Air Strike Danger 'Essentially' Lifted *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Churkin's Sarajevo 'Breakthrough' Applauded *[IZVESTIYA 19 Feb]* 10
Grachev Warns of Consequences of Air Strikes *[Russian TV]* 11
Interviewed on 'Itogi' *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Talks With U.S. Defense Secretary Perry *[INTERFAX]* 11
Perry Refuses Peacekeepers for Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Holds News Conference *[INTERFAX]* 12
Does Not Rule Out More Peacekeepers *[INTERFAX]* 12
U.S. Ambassador, State Duma Official on Bosnia *[Russian TV]* 13
Further Lukin Comment *[Moscow TV]* 14
Vorontsov on Security Council Meeting Over Air Strikes *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Russian, U.S. Delegates to UN Issue Joint Statements *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
'Blue Helmets' Contingent Arrives in Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Starts Duties *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Deploys Along 'Serb-Muslim Line' *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Kozyrev in Athens, Talks With Germany's Kinkel *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Discusses Aid to Northern Regions *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Holds News Conference in Athens *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Suggests Bosnia Conference Be Held *[Moscow International]* 17
Political Adviser on Athens Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Kozyrev Arrives in Prague, Praises Visegrad Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Meets Czech President in Prague *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Views 'Partnership for Peace' *[ITAR-TASS]* 19

Holds News Conference in Prague *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Further on News Conference *[Prague Radio]* 19
Comments on Bosnia *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 20
Ends Prague Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Hungary's Foreign Minister Previews Kozyrev Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Kozyrev Arrives in Hungary *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Discusses Bosnia With Jeszenszky *[Russian TV]* 22
Postponement of Kozyrev's Slovakia Visit Explained *[INTERFAX]* 22
Bundeswehr Chief Sees End to Confrontation *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Feb]* 22
Concludes Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Kozyrev, Germany's Kinkel Analyze Reforms
[Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE 18 Feb] 24

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Aide Previews 24 Feb Address *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin To Seek Reconciliation *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Address Not Finalized *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Resumes Duties Following Illness *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Not Giving Interviews *[Moscow TV]* 26
Kostikov Discusses Illness *[Moscow TV]* 26
Yeltsin To Reorganize Presidential Staff *[INTERFAX]* 27
President's Party To Build Support for Reform *[INTERFAX]* 27
Filatov Denies Use of Executive for New Party *[INTERFAX]* 28
Gaydar on Creation of Unified Democratic Party *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Gaydar Seen as Target in Russia's Choice Dispute *[KURANTY 22 Feb]* 28
Democratic Russia's Council of Representatives Meets *[INTERFAX]* 29
Democratic Russia Leader Opposed to New Party *[INTERFAX]* 29
DPR Faces Split as Travkin's Authority Wanes *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Feb]* 30
LDPR 'Satisfied' With Zhirinovskiy *[INTERFAX]* 30
Zhirinovskiy To Be Tried for War Propaganda *[INTERFAX]* 30
Zorkin Denies Role in New Political Movement *[INTERFAX]* 30
Public Chamber Meets for First Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Edict on Legal Compliance With Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 31
New Communications, Information Agency Created *[INTERFAX]* 31
Yeltsin Sacks Staff Information Department Head *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Anti-Terrorist Group Vympel Disbanded *[INTERFAX]* 32

Economic Issues

Revenue, Spending To Increase Under New Draft Budget *[Radio Rossii]* 32
Finance Ministry Cuts Deficit *[SEGODNYA 22 Feb]* 32
Ministry Draws Up Economic Guidelines for 1994 *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 33
Striking Oil Workers Demand Presidential Election *[TRUD 19 Feb]* 34

Military Issues

Kolesnikov on Differences With Grachev *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 34
Yeltsin Unwilling To Discharge Last USSR Marshals
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 19 Feb] 34

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Gives Duma Former Gosplan Building *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Yeltsin Appoints Voykov to State Duma Post *[Radio Rossii]* 35
Yeltsin's Relations With Duma 'Becoming Strained' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 35
Chernomyrdin Sends Rybkin Priority Bills *[INTERFAX]* 36
Parliament Seeks Greater Financial, Budget Control *[SEGODNYA 18 Feb]* 36
Deputies Discuss Bosnia, NATO Ultimatum *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 19 Feb]* 37

Ostankino, Russian TV Offer Parliament Coverage *[PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 38

Regional Affairs

Bilibino Nuclear Plant To Suspend Two Units *[INTERFAX]* 38
'Main Generating Set' Switched Off *[Moscow TV]* 38
Spokesman Denies Reactor Shutoff *[INTERFAX]* 38
Filatov Urges Change in Local Election Procedure *[INTERFAX]* 39
Filatov Addresses Meeting in North Caucasus *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Tatar President Favors Decentralized Economy *[SEGODNYA 18 Feb]* 39
Yeltsin Appoints Omsk Representative *[SEGODNYA 19 Feb]* 40

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Discusses Cooperation, Agreements With Clinton *[Kiev Radio]* 41
Official Calls For Balanced Position on Air Strikes *[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 17 Feb]* 41
Bosnia Cease-Fire Agreement Hailed, More Efforts Sought *[Kiev International]* 41

National Affairs

Deputies Discuss Supreme Council Agenda; NPT Not Included *[UNIAR]* 42
Crimean President Sees No Need To Challenge Kiev
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 19 Feb] 42

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Questions Sincerity of Russian Peace Role *[IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]* 44
Nazarbayev, Mitterrand Discuss Bosnia in Paris Stopover *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Nazarbayev Interviewed Following Visit to U.S. *[Almaty Radio]* 44
Bilateral Relations on 'New Level' *[INTERFAX]* 45
Pledges To Work for CIS Integration *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Favorable Economic Conditions Needed *[Almaty Radio]* 46
Russian Commander Arrives for Talks on Border Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Agreement Signed With U.S. on Baykonur Cosmodrome *[Moscow Radio]* 47

Tajikistan

Russian Officer Killed in Attack by Armed Group *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Russian Forces Engage Afghan, Tajik Gunmen *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Russian General on Further Attacks by Rebels *[INTERFAX]* 47
Border Guard Commander on Rebel Attacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 47

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Supports Russian Peace Initiatives *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Foreign Ministry Reacts to Azerbaijan Statement *[Yerevan International]* 49
Georgian Premier Holds Economic Talks in Yerevan *[Yerevan International]* 49
Fails To Reach Agreement, Departs *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Azerbaijan

'Dozens' Killed in 'Heavy' Karabakh Fighting *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Baku Confirms MiG-21 Shot Down by Armenians *[INTERFAX]* 50
Azeris in Georgia Said Attacked by Armenians *[TURAN]* 50

Georgia

Abkhaz Armed Forces on 'Highest Level' of Readiness *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Abkhaz Government Appeals to Russia To End War *[Tbilisi Radio]* 50
Shevardnadze Seeks Postponement of Cabinet Approval *[Moscow Radio]* 51
Shevardnadze Interviewed on U.S. Trip *[Tbilisi Radio]* 51
Shevardnadze Discusses UN Aid Programs *[Tbilisi Radio]* 53
Shevardnadze Discusses Privatization *[Tbilisi TV]* 53
Power Station Resumes Operation *[ITAR-TASS]* 54

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Agreement Close on Paldiski Naval Base *[Moscow Radio]* 55
Paldiski Objects to Control by Neighboring Town *[BNS]* 55
Alleged Submarine Base Not Found in Paldiski *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 55
UN Envoy Supports Ultimatum on Bosnian Serbs *[ETA]* 55
'Partnership for Peace' Commission Set Up *[Tallinn Radio]* 55
Laar Sees Privatization as Priority Task *[BNS]* 56
Armed Men Force Entry Onto Russian Air Base *[BNS]* 56

Latvia

Yeltsin Prepared To Discuss Bilateral Issues *[Riga Radio]* 56

Lithuania

Russian Military Train Enters Without Permission *[Vilnius Radio]* 57
Brazauskas on Military Transit to Kaliningrad *[Vilnius Radio]* 57
Brazauskas Argues for EU, NATO Membership *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 57
Landsbergis Views Russian Deployment in Bosnia *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Israel's Mossad Seen Increasing Activity in Country *[KURANTY 18 Feb]* 58

Grachev Begins Nagorno-Karabakh Mediation Talks

LD1802102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb—"If this meeting brings no results, I shall never again act as a mediator," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated today before a meeting between Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sargsyan, Azerbaijani Defense Minister Mamadrafi Mammadov, and Bako Saakyan, representative of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Asked by the conflicting sides to mediate at the talks, the Russian Defense Ministry has proposed a plan for stopping the military actions stage by stage.

Opening the meeting, Pavel Grachev noted that Russia's impartial mediation in this conflict is in line with the national interests of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia itself and is being conducted within the framework of the UN Security Council's resolutions on the Karabakh problem and the CSCE group on Nagorno-Karabakh. "There are no strong-arm methods of solving the conflict," Grachev said, adding that, since the parties themselves are not yet capable of solving the conflict because of its prolonged nature and complexity, mediation is extremely important and should lead to positive results. Moreover, the previous mediation efforts made by various countries and international organizations have not brought any long-lasting results so far.

The question of the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh will not be tackled at today's meeting. Purely military decisions concerning the stage-by-stage cessation of military actions and the establishment of conditions for a political solution will be discussed and, probably, adopted. According to the Russian defense minister, a cease-fire and the disengagement of the sides should be the first stage of the process, followed by the withdrawal of all "foreign troops" from the occupied territories and the deportation of all foreign mercenaries back to their homelands. The next stage will be the exchange of hostages and POW's.

Pavel Grachev said he was pleased to be offered the role of mediator and reported that the meeting is being organized on the eve of the summit between the presidents of Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh expressed the hope that the meeting will be fruitful and agreements proposed by the Russian Ministry of Defense will be reached.

Further on Talks

NC2002135694 Baku TURAN in English 1128 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, February 19 (TURAN)—The meeting of Azerbaijan Defense Minister, Mammadrafi Mammadov and Armenian Defense Minister, Serzh Sarkisyan through the mediation of Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev took place the day before in Moscow. The representative of Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, Bako Saakyan attended the meeting as well. The meeting was conducted on the initiative of Pavel Grachev.

As reported before, Grachev told both parties if they do not come to any agreement, he will never act as mediator in settlement of the conflict.

Such strict policy of Russian Defense Minister compelled the warring parties to take the resolution on cease-fire. Azerbaijani and Armenian Defense Ministers agreed to stage-by-stage settlement of the conflict. According to Defense Ministry of Russian Federation, Russian plan of settlement of the conflict stipulates cease-fire, liberation of all occupied territories, sending of all foreign mercenaries at home.

Representative of Russian Defense Ministry refused to comment on the question of a TURAN's correspondent "What do you mean by phrase 'all occupied territories?'". He did not explain how the control over the sending of foreign mercenaries at home will be carried out.

Together with this, the meeting of Azerbaijani and Armenian Defense Ministers continues in Moscow.

Earlier this meeting was not scheduled and invitation of Armenian and Azerbaijani Defense Ministers to Moscow was a surprise. It should be mentioned that the meeting and the plan of settlement were not prepared in advance.

When the Serbians of Bosnia accepted Russian offers, the tension round the capital of Bosnia eased a little. Presently Russia wishes to win one more diplomatic victory in another hotbed. Moscow will try to make Azerbaijan to adopt its plan on settlement the Armenian-Azerabaijani conflict stipulating introduction of Russian peacemaking troops in the region. As known, official Baku did not agree with that plan as it does not stipulate absolute liberation of occupied Azerbaijani territories.

EU Resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Hailed

NC2102220094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1714 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, February 21 (TURAN)—Today Russian radio station "Mayak" reports that the European Council has adopted a resolution in which it recognizes Armenia as a participant in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its statement expressed "its concern about the European Council's resolution".

Until now, despite Azerbaijan's efforts, all internationally adopted documents neglected to mention Armenia, as a country, as a participant in the conflict.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs sees the resolution of the European Council as "a success in Azerbaijan's diplomacy".

A representative from the Greek Embassy in Baku stated that they do not have the text of the resolution that was taken by the European Council.

Greece is in charge of affairs concerning Azerbaijan for the European Council.

Butrus-Ghali Sends Letter to Shevardnadze, Yeltsin

LD2002205594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Letter from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin; date not given]

[Text] To His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze; to His Excellency Boris Yeltsin:

Thank you very much for your letter of 20 February [as heard] in connection with the situation in Abkhazia. I am watching closely developments in the Republic of Georgia and so is Ambassador Edouard Brunner, my extraordinary and plenipotentiary representative to Georgia. We both share your concern over the absence of progress in the talks on the comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

The Security Council continues to look into all aspects of the situation in Abkhazia, including a proposal put forward by the Governments of Russia and Georgia to deploy peacekeeping forces in the region. In its Resolution 896 of 1994, which was adopted unanimously on 31 January, the Council acknowledges the difficulty of the condition of 300,000 people, who, as is known, have been forced to leave Abkhazia. However, the Council stressed the necessity of substantial progress in the political solution of the conflict before it would be able to consider the possibility of deploying peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia.

The third round of talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, which is to take place in Geneva between 22 and 24 February, will have paramount importance. In advance of the forthcoming talks, I ask your delegations to do everything in order to make progress in the peaceful solution of the conflict. It is very important for both sides to demonstrate the progress that the Security Council is striving for. In this connection, Ambassador Brunner is planning to meet Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba in Geneva on 20 February.

Finally, let me express my heartfelt appreciation of the support given to Ambassador Brunner by the Russian Government in its capacity as facilitator. I would like to assure you that he and myself will continue to assist actively the parties involved in finding a comprehensive peaceful solution to the conflict.

Yours respectfully,
[Signed] Butrus-Ghali

Draft on Ukraine Joining Economic Union Complete

LD1802171794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Sergey Logachev, Andrey Petrovsky]

[Text] In Minsk experts of the CIS countries completed the preparation of an agreement on Ukraine's joining the treaty on creation of economic union as an associate member, Interfax learned at the CIS executive secretariat.

The document will be submitted to the Coordinating-Consultative committee which is expected to meet on March 1 in Moscow and then discussed at a meeting of the councils of heads of governments and heads of states.

Joint Baltic Military Exercises Conducted

WS2102153694 Tallinn ETA in English 0905 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, POSTIMEES, February 21, pp 1,3; "News Bulletin" No. 35]

[Text] Joint exercise of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian defence forces began in Vdru yesterday. C Company of the Kuperjanov Battalion (129 men), 1 Company of the Latvian Aluksne Infantry Battalion (150 men) and 1 Company of the Lithuanian "Iron Wolf" Brigade Panevezys Battalion (96 men) take part in the exercise.

Unlike the first joint exercise held last spring, which had a military-sporting nature, the present exercise is strictly military, Lieutenant Meelis Sare of the Kuperjanov Battalion said. The exercise includes meeting an enemy attack, retreat to the second line of defence and counter-offensive. One hundred and forty men from the non-commissioned officers combat school perform as the enemy.

The exercise is also meant as a part of forming the Baltic joint peacekeeping battalion, Major Mart Tiru of the Defence Forces GHQ [general headquarters] explained. The battalion is to include 70 officers, 120 non-commissioned officers and approximately 500 soldiers.

The exercise is to last until Tuesday [22 February].

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Feb

LD1902141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0543 GMT 19 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—Most Russian newspapers highlight today Russia's peace initiative, which makes it possible to avoid the bombing of positions of Bosnian Serbs by NATO planes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that "the West asked Russia to do its utmost for enabling NATO not to put its ultimatum into effect... After adopting the ultimatum, which was prompted by emotions and not careful calculations, and after realising how dangerous its consequences may be, the NATO countries began themselves to persuade Russia to do all it can for preventing the bombing."

"Boris Yeltsin and Russian diplomats have managed to ward off the threat of the bombing of the positions of Bosnian Serbs. By all appearances, the Russian diplomacy is set to develop the initial success," the newspaper points out. This means that the Moslems are expected to respond to the Russian initiative in the same way as Serbs. The Russian diplomacy believes that its next task is to achieve the demilitarisation of Sarajevo, following the diplomatic breakthrough, and its putting under U.N. control, as is envisaged by all the settlement plans. "This should be followed by the settlement of local Bosnian problems, along with keeping in sight a global settlement of the crisis."

According to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, "the plan of the settlement of the conflict, suggested by Boris Yeltsin, makes the bombing senseless ... However, it is too early to celebrate a victory. A successful settlement of the crisis, brought about by a mine explosion at the Sarajevo market place and the death of 68 people, is just the first stage in establishing comprehensive peace in the Balkan Peninsula. Many more joint actions will be required from all countries of the world community before the fratricidal war, which has been going on for 22 months, will be ended with a peace settlement."

Analysing the Russian peace initiative and its possible impact on the normalisation of the situation in Bosnia, IZVESTIYA writes that "the Russian diplomacy is saving NATO from the need to resort to force in Bosnia" and is giving a chance to Serbs. "This breakthrough of the Russian diplomacy is a logical and natural continuation of its Balkan policy, which has done far more good than actions and statements of any other Russian institution, party or group. Servicemen from various countries, who are now in Bosnia as part of the U.N. peace-keeping force, know well that not a single agreement has been fulfilled there so far, not a single ceasefire accord has lasted long. The situation with the latest agreement will become clear on Monday, the day when the NATO ultimatum expires. Even if the situation changes for the better, the settlement of the crisis around Sarajevo is an important, but initial step towards stopping the war and finding a political settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

According to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, "Russia's stand is clear: to prevent NATO air strikes at Bosnian Serbs." In the opinion of the author of the article, which is frontpaged by the newspaper today, "whatever they say in the West about the fear that Serbs felt after the NATO ultimatum, it is confidence that played a decisive role in the fulfilment of its terms by Serbs, the confidence that

they feel for Russia and its servicemen." The article points out, at the same time, that if the U.N. plan of the troop withdrawal and the taking of Sarajevo under U.N. control is put into effect, this first major victory over the Bosnian nightmare will go to the credit both of the U.N., NATO and the Russian diplomacy."

Press Review for 22 Feb

LD2202071494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 22 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS - The situation in the former Yugoslavia remains the leading topic in today's Russian newspapers.

TRUD carries an interview with Vycheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president.

Evaluating the practical consequences of the actions of the president of Russia as regards the conflict over Sarajevo, the press secretary said in particular: "Boris Yeltsin's initiative has led to Russia's big diplomatic triumph on both european and world scale...

"Russia has virtually won a major battle for her status as a world power. The point is not only in the fact that Russia has returned to the beginnings of its historical politics and role in the Balkans and defended the Serbs who are close to the Russians spiritually, culturally, and ethnically.

"Russia has firmly designated the parameters of her influence in Europe and the world. It has become evident that not a single small or great power can fail to reckon with Russia's stand and her national interests.

"It has become obvious that no international organisation of universal or miltiary nature can take effective decisions if they fail to take the voice of Moscow into consideration".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA expresses a different point of view on the Sarajevo events.

"Russian diplomacy, so far, has no grounds even for a cautious, moderate optimism, to say nothing of euphoria over the 'triumph' of Boris Yeltsin's diplomacy. The creators of a 'new world order' continue to impose their diktat on the peoples of the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union by at least backstage, separate collusions, if not by air strikes".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA runs an article by Mikhail Gorbachev under the headline "The NATO Ultimatum Was the Worst Possible Solution to the Bosnian Crisis".

"The West not only lacks the right to lull its conscience by cutting the knot in the tightening of which it itself had a hand. First of all, the West should come to realise that power politics will not resolve anything there," Gorbachev points out.

"Power-political actions, particularly if they are directed only against one of the sides while ignoring the real interests of all those involved, will never lead to peace...

"Various political options have now opened up for a settlement of the conflict in Bosnia due to Russia. It is essential to try them, taking into account all the errors made. There is no single culprit to whom an ultimatum could be presented".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the Sarajevo crisis:

"The Sarajevo crisis can be overcome on the strength of Moscow's initiative". At the same time the newspaper quotes U.S. President Bill Clinton as saying that the need for NATO air strikes in Bosnia has been obviated but that the settlement issue has not been resolved and, so, the ultimatum remains in effect".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA wonders whether "the 'hand of Moscow' will undo the Balkan knot", drawing attention to the fact that "the numerical strength of Moslem infantry in the Sarajevo area is three times as high as that of the Serbian one at a time when the 'restraining factor', as represented by artillery guns surrounding the Bosnian capital, is now absent".

The newspaper concludes that "the way to the southeast, to the Serbian enclaves, has been somewhat 'cleared' for military forces led by Alija Izetbegovic".

PRAVDA, commenting on the situation in Bosnia, points out that NATO will not limit itself to an ultimatum in Bosnia. "But, in the interests of a further political settlement, will the 'necessary balance in Bosnia' be maintained and to what extent? ", the newspaper asks.

"In other words, the question is whether the Bosnian Serbs' concession will be compensated by appropriate obligations on the part of Moslem forces. If otherwise, it is not ruled out an idea may occur that that was the Serbs' 'one-sided capitulation'. Such an idea may play a negative role notwithstanding any active peacemaking efforts".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on the NATO air strike ultimatum:

"The threat of NATO air strikes has been eliminatied due to resolute actions of Russia. NATO placed both itself and the entire world in an extreme situation. Europe could have faced an escalation of the Balkan war up to unpredictable proportions. NATO could be saved from itself only by Russia and she took such difficult decision".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the same subject:

"The word of Moscow turned out to be decisive. Russia coped with the Sarajevo crisis within seven days".

Yeltsin Stresses Need for Political Settlement in Bosnia

LD1802170594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1557 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb—"In the last few days Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has been exchanging messages with leaders of the states most actively participating in the search for a solution to the Bosnian problem," says an official statement issued by the presidential press service today.

"In these messages the countries involved have expressed their positions with regard to this problem. The Russian president stated his views on the situation that had developed, stressing the need for political settlement and stopping the bloodshed in Bosnia," the press service reports.

Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Bosnia on Phone

LD2002205694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2021 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb—Russian President Boris Yeltsin telephoned U.S. President Bill Clinton. Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, said that they discussed problems pertaining to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As a result of the conversation, an accord was reached on postponing bombing, taking into account the recent Russian diplomacy. The U.S. President highly assessed Boris Yeltsin's political initiative, which made it possible to ease significantly the crisis around Sarajevo.

In the course of the telephone conversation, it was confirmed that decisions stemming from the development of the situation around Sarajevo would be adopted through UN mediation. It was agreed to continue consultations on the settlement of the situation in Bosnia in the upcoming days.

Further on Conversation

LD2102201794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 35 (525)]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin called his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton on the telephone to discuss the situation in former Yugoslavia. Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told Interfax that the two men had "agreed on holding off air strikes in light of the diplomatic efforts being made by the Russian side in recent days."

According to Kostikov, the U.S. President "highly appreciated President Yeltsin's diplomatic initiative which resulted in defusing the crisis around Sarajevo."

"It was confirmed that decisions on the situation around Sarajevo will be made only in the framework of the UN," Kostikov told Interfax, and affirmed that over the short term consultations in search of a settlement to the Bosnian conflict will continue .

He maintained that Boris Yeltsin's Sarajevo initiative reduced the dangers of a crisis which threatened to engulf the entire world and made a peaceful resolution of the conflict a realistic probability.

This initiative, he told Interfax, scored a large diplomatic victory for Russia on the European and world arena.

"Without firing a shot or threatening anybody, or jeopardizing the lives of its soldiers or spending a ruble Russia won a major battle for its international status," Kostikov said.

"Not only did it return to the sources of its historic policy and role in the Balkans and protect Serbs, who are our kin in religion, culture and national spirit, Russia also showed the scale of its influence in Europe and the world," the press secretary said.

He said that UN and NATO diplomacy "nearly brought the world to the brink of a world crisis which could have developed into a war in which large countries would be involved."

Kostikov said that, unlike his opponents, Yeltsin did not make much noise, but showed who is the undisputed leader in Russia.

Yeltsin, Kohl Agree on Need for Summit on Bosnia

LD2002090094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0831 GMT 20 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn February 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yetlsin and German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl during a telephone conversation at the end of last week agreed on the need to hold a meeting of the leaders of a number of countries to find a solution to the Bosnian conflict, the newspaper BILD AM SONNTAG reported on Sunday [20 February].

The summit is expected to be attended by Yeltsin, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and by the leaders of Britain, France, and Germany, the newspaper pointed out.

Yeltsin and Kohl also reached a consensus that the nascent process of the normalisation of the situation around Sarajevo should become a model for the entire Bosnia-Herzegovina. This means a truce, the withdrawal of heavy guns from the areas of combat operations, and control over the situation on the part of U.N. peacekeepers, including those from Russia.

Yeltsin Favors More Active UN Role

LD2102163894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1606 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb—(ITAR-TASS) President Boris Yeltsin has spoken in favor of the United Nations playing a more active role in the Bosnian settlement, as he stated Russia's point of view on the Balkan conflict in a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, which has just taken place. The press service of the Russian Federation president has reported that Boris Yeltsin mentioned "a certain normalization of the situation around Sarajevo which is due, among other things, to the deployment of a contingent of the Russian blue helmets in the area."

The Russian president and the chancellor of the FRG said it was important that the states interested in a settlement in Bosnia should come out with political initiatives. They expressed a hope that concrete suggestions on developing the settlement process will be drawn up at the meeting of the heads of diplomatic departments of Russia, the European Union, and the United States on 22 February 1994 in Bonn.

According to Boris Yeltsin, Russia sees the following three main tasks in Bosnia:

- to strengthen positive developments in Sarajevo and work toward transferring the town to UN administration;

- to take measures aimed at strengthening other security zones in Bosnia;

- to achieve the signing of an agreement on peaceful settlement throughout Bosnia on the basis of the EC plan by three Bosnian sides. The telephone conversation was initiated by Helmut Kohl.

Kostikov Says Yeltsin Bolstered by Bosnia Initiative

LD2102131194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The Russian president's press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, has said in an interview with INTERFAX that Boris Yeltsin's Bosnia initiative has lifted the danger from a crisis threatening to acquire worldwide dimensions and laid the foundations for a definitive settlement.

Russia, the press secretary believes, has in fact won a vital battle for global status. This is important for the domestic political scene, in that it strengthens Boris Yeltsin's position.

Yeltsin 'Satisfied' With Initiative

LD2102150394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is satisfied with the results of the Russian initiative in Bosnia which followed the NATO ultimatum about possible air strikes on Bosnian Serbs, TASS was told by head of the presidential staff Sergey Filatov on Monday [21 February].

Filatov qualified the Russian initiative as "a major victory of the Russian diplomacy". He added that the latest developments in Bosnia clearly show that "the adoption of major decisions without Russia on the security of the world community does not work".

Churkin on Possible Dangers Facing Sarajevo

LD1802180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The special envoy of the Russian President for settlement in the former Yugoslavia, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, is sure that the Serbs will fulfil the promise they gave to Russia and will move heavy weapons away from Sarajevo. Churkin made the statement in Moscow Friday [18 February] upon his arrival from Yugoslavia.

The Russian initiative has made it possible to settle the crisis around Sarajevo, said Churkin.

At the same time Churkin did not rule out the possibility of new problems for a political settlement around Sarajevo. Among them he named the likelihood of acts of terrorism. Churkin believes inadmissible the situation when the responsibility for the explosion at the Sarajevo market was immediately put on the Serbs. But, Churkin said, he would not like to whitewash the Serbs, since the Serbs launched hundreds of missiles against Sarajevo.

The second danger is that the Moslems may improve their positions and even launch a large-scale offensive. This danger, believes Churkin, is not great since this could be a challenge to the world community.

The third danger, he believes, is that some NATO officials think that it is necessary to hold talks and make air strikes simultaneously. Churkin believes this point of view is wrong and may break the negotiations. However, he said, the stand is not prevailing.

Churkin also denied the rumours on the possible deployment of the Russian troops in Macedonia and said that the possibility had not been discussed and was not on the agenda.

Denies Possibility of Troops in Macedonia

LD1802174994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative on the settlement in former Yugoslavia, is convinced that the Serbs will keep the promise they have given Russia to withdraw heavy weapons from Sarajevo. Churkin told journalists of this today in Moscow. At the

same time, he does not rule out the possibility of new problems with regard to a political settlement around Sarajevo. Among these, he identified the likelihood of terrorist acts.

Vitaliy Churkin believes that the situation whereby responsibility for the explosion in the Sarajevo market was immediately laid at the Serbs' door is unacceptable. In his opinion, in this sort of case it is necessary to hold an investigation.

The Russian president's special representative denied rumors about the possible introduction of Russian troops into Macedonia. He said that this possibility is not being discussed and is not on the agenda.

Interviewed on Sarajevo Agreement

LD1802215894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1840 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, presidential special representative and deputy foreign minister, by correspondent Boris Kalyagin; place and date not given; program entitled: "The Bosnian Knot"—recorded]

[Kalyagin] President Yeltsin's message has helped to change the situation for the better. The Bosnian Serbs have started the mass withdrawal of their heavy equipment from Sarajevo. In exchange the Russian command must transfer to Sarajevo 400 paratroopers from its battalion, which is part of the international peacekeeping forces in Croatia. Russia's initiative has already been welcomed by France and Italy.

The agreement with the Serbs was achieved by Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian president and deputy foreign minister, who in these past few days has been plying continuously between Geneva, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Pale, and who today at last arrived in Moscow by plane.

[Churkin] Zagreb and Skopje also need mentioning in order to attain a full picture.

[Kalyagin] Zagreb and Skopje. So this is your first interview back on Russian soil. Vitaliy Ivanovich, what has been achieved is a real breakthrough. How, after all, did you manage to achieve this?

[Churkin] Three elements of our proposal undoubtedly brought a decisive influence to bear on the Serbs. First, the fact that Russia made a request to them. The words, request by Russia, made a literally stunning impression on them. Second, the fact that the letter which I took with me to Belgrade and Pale was signed by President Yeltsin. And third, the fact that this letter contained an obligation by the Russian side, by the Russian Federation, to send to Sarajevo its contingent which is part of the UN peacekeeping forces, so that the Serbs could have some guarantee for their peace of mind, and the fact that the new balance which is being created in the area of the city as a result of the withdrawal of heavy weaponry from Sarajevo, which the Serbs have now promised, is not upset by the actions of the other side.

[Kalyagin] Have you any misgivings that this agreement could all the same be violated by some provocation?

[Churkin] There could of course be a provocation, provocations. There could be some ill-considered actions on the part of the Army of the Bosnian Government. However, for this it is necessary to monitor the situation very closely. At present global attention is already riveted to Sarajevo. Of course a fairly considerable UN contingent is already there. So that it seems to me that this danger is nevertheless not all that great. Our country is ensuring that the Serbs fulfill their obligations. The kind of obligations we received in essence signify a resolution of the crisis, the crisis concerning Sarajevo, which in the past week has disturbed the entire world. Our Western partners now must do some work with the Bosnian Government so that it also fully observes the requirements which ensue from the idea of demilitarizing Sarajevo, which we have put forward very powerfully.

[Kalyagin] Could NATO strikes still take place?

[Churkin] I think not. However, I know that certain NATO officials stand by the concept, which in my view is extremely dangerous, of carrying out air strikes and holding talks; that is, they believe that air strikes must be carried out without fail under whatever pretext, and that this will somehow stimulate the talks. This is a completely absurd concept, which is detached from the realities of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Actions of this kind are certain to wreck the whole talks process. I think that in the present conditions, when the Russian initiative has not only been accepted by the Serbs, but has it must be said received a very good response from many international leaders and from many parts of the world, I think that the chances of such reckless actions are not very great.

I am very glad that the United States has now said it is raising its profile in the Bosnian settlement. In this way the prestige of the United States is now also at stake, and if a Bosnian settlement once again slips out of our grip, then it will also mean a loss of prestige for the United States. That leads me to think that the Americans will indeed act positively here.

[Kalyagin] So a truce has been reached: What about the next step? Should we not strike while the iron is hot?

[Churkin] The next step will be this. First, as far as Sarajevo is concerned, we will propose that the Security Council examine the problem of Sarajevo as a whole—that is, we press ahead with implementing the UN administration of Sarajevo. In the package for a Bosnian political settlement, the sides have already agreed with this idea in principle. It remains for us to work out the details and to carry out UN administration for two years, as envisaged by the peace accords. Second, from the viewpoint of a general Bosnian settlement; an extremely

good opportunity has now emerged to press ahead quickly toward a comprehensive political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the last few days and hours we have been in contact at the very highest levels with representatives of a host of key countries. In this respect Russia now plays a central role in this whole process, and I think that in the coming days and weeks one can expect some very important meetings and decisions in this sphere.

Churkin Arrives in Belgrade, Issues Statement

LD1902165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Feb—An IL-18 plane, the undying veteran of our air fleet, was the most suitable vehicle for the Russian Government delegation as it arrived today at Belgrade airport, which was covered with snow and wrapped in fog. Its members, which include Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president and Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, and Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of the Russian airborne assault troops, have to tackle a number of practical issues relating to the redeployment of a unit of the Russian "Blue Helmet" battalion from the Vukovar area to Sarajevo. The operation is being carried out within the framework of Russia's initiative aimed at settling the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and at removing the threat of NATO air strikes on the positions of the Bosnian Serbs.

During its stay in former Yugoslavia the Russian delegation plans to see the situation at first hand and to hold talks with the UN forces command and the leadership of the Bosnian sides to get the necessary guarantees for the successful and safe implementation by the Russian contingent of its peacekeeping mission in the hottest part of the Bosnian conflict.

After arriving in Belgrade the commander of the airborne assault troops left for the Russian battalion, which had already started to move toward Sarajevo. After that Ye. Podkolzin and V. Churkin will fly on to Zagreb where the main headquarters of the UN forces command in former Yugoslavia is situated. On Sunday they will go to Sarajevo to see the situation at first hand and to meet the representatives of the confronting sides.

In an arrival statement Vitaliy Churkin stated that the Russian delegation's main work would be in Sarajevo, where there are to be talks with representatives of the sides and the local UN command on the tasks of the Russian contingent. We want also to acquaint ourselves with the progress in the withdrawal of the heavy weapons from the city.

We plan to stay in Sarajevo until the evening of 21 February to see that "there are absolutely no surprises," the Russian diplomat said, having in mind the expiry at midnight on the 20th of the NATO ultimatum on air strikes.

If snowfalls and snowdrifts prevent the Serbs from completing the withdrawal of their artillery from the city, will the NATO forces not use this pretext to inflict air strikes, V. Churkin was asked.

"I think that it will be simpler to ask us to resolve all the issues than to inflict strikes and undertake other reckless and risky steps," he replied.

"We are willing to give priority attention to ensuring the safety of our fighters in Sarajevo," the commander of the Russian airborne assault troops stated. "This is going to be one of the most important points in our upcoming conversations with the command of the UN troops and with representatives of the Bosnian sides. We want to obtain firm assurances from them and guarantees protecting our fighters from all surprises," Ye. Podkolzin emphasized.

One of the sides gave such guarantees without any delay. Army General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander who arrived in Belgrade especially to meet with the Russian delegations, said that the Russian fighters can have full trust in the Serb side. We are very interested in seeing the Russian peace-keeping contingent operate in Sarajevo and we hope that its presence will speed up the achievement of peace, he said.

Comments on Present Situation

LD1902212994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, deputy minister of foreign affairs, by unidentified Ostankino Television correspondent in Moscow on 19 February—recorded]

[Text] [Churkin] The Serbs were greatly impressed by three elements in the Russian proposal. First of all, it was Russia's request to the Serbs to withdraw heavy weaponry from Sarajevo. Second, it was the circumstance that the letter was signed by President Yeltsin. Third, it was the fact that it was not just words, but that the proposal and the president's signature were backed by Russia's pledge to send Russian servicemen to Sarajevo in the UN peacekeeping contingent.

[Correspondent] Vasiliy Ivanovich, what about the ultimatum? Does it still remain in force, or it can be said that NATO will revise its decision?

[Churkin] I do not know what this ultimatum is in general. We are not members of NATO. It is UN troops that are in Sarajevo, not NATO ones, and it is the resolutions of the Security Council that are operating there. I refuse to take into account any time periods or any other elements of any sort of ultimatums. The countdown in Sarajevo now starts from the moment when on Thursday at 1600 the Serbs said that they agree to the Russian proposal and are grateful to Russia that it

put forward so bravely and energetically its proposal for the de-blocking of the Sarajevo crisis.

[Correspondent] NATO's decision has permitted some reviewers to come to the conclusion that for the first time in recent years a crisis has developed between the young democratic Russia and its partners in the Western alliance, if not a split.

[Churkin] I think that there has been no crisis or split as yet. There was a certain episode, a serious one, but one should not dramatize it too much because we are only just learning to carry out equal partnership relations with each other. This episode might turn into a crisis if, in spite of the Russian initiative, NATO takes some kind of reckless, precipitate action that would lead to an exacerbation of the situation in Sarajevo. Well, if somebody made a sudden decision—and there are people who feel this way in NATO I can say quite frankly—to carry out air strikes in the area of Sarajevo, then, indeed, we would be faced with a crisis, but for the time being I proceed from the fact that the crisis around Sarajevo will be overcome on the basis of the Russian initiative and we and the NATO states will thus acquire, as a result of this episode—although it is serious—important experience in how to build relations with one another.

Says Air Strikes Might Disrupt Settlement

LD2002183094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade February 20 TASS—"The bombardment of positions of Bosnia Serbs would seriously undermine the peace process, creating a qualitatively new situation, impeding peace talks," said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin at a news conference in Sarajevo, cautioning against the consequences of NATO's plans which still remain in effect.

Churkin expressed hope that in the long run, a peaceful approach to the solution of the problem will prevail. He pointed out that air raids do not meet the interests of the North Atlantic Alliance.

In Churkin's opinion, a ceasefire agreement is currently being observed better than ever during the recent two years. "Weapons withdrawn from their positions pose no threat to Sarajevo and control over the situation must be entrusted to U.N. peace-keepers," Churkin said.

He pointed out that the Russian battalion of Blue Helmets which arrived in Sarajevo on Sunday, would be stationed in the city between Serbian and Muslim residential areas. "Russia is, undoubtedly,concerned over the safety of its servicemen," Churkin pointed out.

According to the Russian diplomat, a ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons should be the first step on the way to establishing the U.N. control over Sarajevo.

Meets UN Representative in Sarajevo

LD2002233194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2240 GMT 20 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb, 21 Feb—Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative, had discussions in Sarajevo on Sunday [20 February] with representatives of the Bosnian Serb political and military leadership on issues connected with implementing the pledge they undertook at Russia's request to withdraw heavy weapons from the city or to surrender them to UN control. Churkin stated this in a telephone interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

At meetings between the Russian diplomat and Yasushi Akashi, the UN Security Council's representative in the former Yugoslavia, and General Michael Rose, commander of UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina emphasis was put on the possibility of maintaining the calm in Sarajevo that has been achieved in recent days.

In a conversation with Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic, Churkin stressed that the Russian battalion that arrived in Sarajevo on 20 February would carry out its duties honorably and objectively within the UN mandate. He urged the Bosnian leader to do everything necessary to rule out any unfriendly acts against the Russian troops.

The situation in Sarajevo is calm and there is no cause for aggravating the situation, the Russian president's special representative concluded.

Recounts Talks With Bosnian Serb Leadership

LD2102114394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade February 21 TASS—Speaking in Sarajevo after a meeting with members of the Bosnian Serb leadership, devoted to the demilitarisation of the city and the peace-making mission of the Russian "Blue Helmets", who have arrived there a short while ago, special representative of the Russian President Vitaliy Churkin said that the Serbian side was observing the agreement to withdraw its heavy guns and to place them under U.N. control.

"We have reached agreement on further joint efforts to turn Sarajevo into a peaceful city. This is the most important task today," Churkin stated.

The possibility of perpetuating the tranquility in Sarajevo, achieved in recent days, was stressed during the Russian diplomat's meetings with Yasushi Akashi, representative of the U.N. secretary- general in former Yugoslavia, and General Michael Rose, commander-in-chief of the U.N. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the same day, Churkin told Alija Izetbegovic, chairman of the presidium of Bosnia and Herzegovina, that the Russian battalion, which arrived in Sarajevo on

february 20, would honestly and objectively discharge its duties in accordance with the U.N. mandate. He urged the Bosnian leader to do everything possible to rule out any unfriendly actions against Russian servicemen.

Churkin stated that the situation in Sarajevo was calm and that there were no reasons for its escalation.

In the meantime, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told local journalists in Sarajevo that the Bosnian Serb intelligence possessed information about a new spate of provocations that is now being hatched by the Muslim side.

He said that some Muslim combatants, clad in Serbian uniforms, were planning to attack the "Blue Helmets". Several bodies, dressed like Serbs, are to be left on the spot of the clash so that responsibility for the attack could be blamed on the Serb side.

"We can expect a series of terroristic acts in the near future, like the ones we have witnessed in the Lebanon," Karadzic noted.

The Bosnian Serb government also noted in its statement the possibility of provocations "from the Muslim or some other third side". It urged foreign journalists "to avoid premature conclusions and instigatory calls against the Serbian side."

Says Air Strike Danger 'Essentially' Lifted

LD2102181394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 21 Feb 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb, 21 Feb—"The danger of air strikes against Sarajevo has essentially been lifted at the current stage, although the possibility of major provocations and adventurist sorties has not been completely ruled out." This was stated in an exclusive interview given to ITAR-TASS by Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the president of the Russian Federation and deputy foreign minister, at Zagreb airport today on his return from the Bosnian capital.

"The Serbs are firmly observing the promise they gave to Russia, their heavy guns have been either withdrawn or brought under UN control, and the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] leadership has no complaints about them. The questions raised yesterday by the Russian side with the command of Bosnian Serbs were solved on the spot, and relevant orders were given and executed in our presence," the Russian diplomat said.

Commenting, at an ITAR-TASS correspondent's request, on the statement by Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, to the effect that some hours before the NATO ultimatum expired 40 to 50 percent of the Serb heavy guns remained in their former positions, the Russian president's special envoy said: "Among the Muslim figures there are people who are making nervous and sometimes irresponsible statements. The figure of 40-50 percent is unrealistic. An insignificant number of Serb heavy guns have indeed remained, but they are dispersed across the eight areas allocated for this purpose. But these heavy guns have been declared to the United Nations and are under its control. Some of these guns are simply out of order, the rest have been made incapable of immediate military use. UNPROFOR has no complaints to the Serbs regarding these armaments", Churkin stressed. Today our battalion starts performing its new duties in the capital's district of Grbavica along the disengagement line. This is a difficult area of Sarajevo, where French "blue helmets" too are performing the peace-making mission, he said.

V. Churkin noted that the Russian delegation received "all the necessary assurances" from Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency President Alija Izetbegovic "that there will be no kind of provocations and additional complications for our soldiers." In a short speech for the press Izetbegovic yesterday stressed that "the Russians have come as friends." As regards the Serb population in the areas surrounding Sarajevo, then, in the words of the diplomat, it has received the Russian servicemen "very well and even enthusiastically." "The very presence of the Russian 'blue berets' is calming and stabilizing the situation in Sarajevo," he said.

Commenting on Russia's attitude to the meeting commencing in Bonn tomorrow of representatives of the foreign ministries of Russia, the United States, and EC member states, which will proceed with the involvement of a UN delegation, V. Churkin described it as an "important diplomatic if not political event." "Such a meeting is taking place for the first time after overcoming the crisis in Sarajevo, and in my view this is a move to a new level of unity in the efforts of key members of the international community in settling the Bosnian problem. We are preparing for this meeting and hope that it will be followed by meetings at a higher level. Overcoming the crisis in Bosnia will make it possible to energetically complete a settlement in Bosnia as a whole," he concluded.

On the same day, V. Churkin flew to Bonn to take part in the forthcoming meeting of high-ranking officials.

Churkin's Sarajevo 'Breakthrough' Applauded

PM1802170194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by A. Baturin and S. Gryzunov of RIA-NOVOSTI for IZVESTIYA under the general heading "Russian Diplomacy Spares NATO the Use of Force in Bosnia and Gives Serbs a Chance"]

[Text] Belgrade—The mission of Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian President's special representative at the talks on the former Yugoslavia, has ended in success. The Bosnian Serbs have agreed to fulfill Russia's request and

withdraw the heavy weapons from Sarajevo as quickly as possible in the interests of ending the bloodshed.

The Russian battalion will advance to Sarajevo if the Bosnian Serbs keep their word. That is stipulated in Boris Yeltsin's message to Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia, and also sent to Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, other Serb leaders, and the Serbian people.

Although Serbia is not taking part in the Bosnian war, according to the assurances of its leaders, it is no secret that the Bosnian Serbs could hardly have achieved military superiority and territorial advantages without Belgrade's support.

Can Moscow's latest gesture be called a slide toward a "pro-Serbian position?" Today's breakthrough by Russian diplomacy is a logical and consistent continuation of its Balkans policy, which has done far more good than the actions and statements of any other Russian organ, party, or grouping.

The military from various countries operating as UN peacemaking forces in the Bosnian war are well aware that so far not a single agreement has been fulfilled here and not a single cease-fire agreement has held for long. As for what will happen this time, we shall find that out on Monday—the day that the NATO ultimatum expires.

The Russian president's message makes no mention of how far the artillery and tanks should be withdrawn, it speaks only of the "earliest possible deadline" for the withdrawal, and it is that aspect which is now the cause of disagreement between the participants in the conflict and the blue helmets. General Sir Michael Rose, the British commander of the blue helmets in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is categorical: The condition that heavy weapons be withdrawn 20 km from the center of Sarajevo must be fulfilled. At the moment, however, it is not being observed.

Even now, when an unusual calm is reigning in Sarajevo, you can hardly call the Russian airborne forces' new place of deployment a holiday camp. The Muslim side stated immediately that it is not ecstatic about the contact between the Russians and the Serbs. In addition, Vitaliy Churkin has stressed that if the accords are violated and any of the Russian soldiers or any other country's servicemen are placed in danger air support [aviatsia] will immediately be summoned to their aid.

Even if things work out well, the resolution of the crisis around Sarajevo is an important step but only the first step toward ending the war and achieving a political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Grachev Warns of Consequences of Air Strikes

LD1802203294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Statement by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; place and date not given—recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A decision to make ground-attack and bombing strikes against positions around Sarajevo would, of course, be bound to have very unwelcome consequences. In the first place I would say: the international prestige of the United Nations would be undermined. That is certain. This action would look like a unilateral action to punish the Serbs. Moreover, great losses among the civilian population are inevitable.

Second, the inflicting of these strikes could trigger a large-scale war, and, even worse, these strikes could act as a trigger for other states, neighboring states, to be drawn into this war.

Interviewed on 'Itogi'

LD2002185194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1833 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb—There will be no air strike by NATO air forces on Bosnian Serb positions tonight, as envisaged by the North Atlantic bloc's ultimatum. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said this in an interview today on NTV television's "Itogi" program. He noted that that "this had become quite clear" after his telephone conversation today with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Talks With U.S. Defense Secretary Perry

LD2002192594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 20 Feb 94

[INTERFAX "Express"]

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry on Sunday evening assured Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev that there would be no air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs within the next two days, although the NATO ultimatum expires at midnight on Sunday [20 February].

In a telephone conversation, conducted in the presence of correspondents from Interfax and Russia's NTV television company, Grachev told Perry: "In our opinion, far from all political and diplomatic measures have been used."

The minister said Russia's 400-strong U.N. contingent around 1700 GMT was entering Sarajevo, where the commander of the Russian airborne forces, Colonel-General Yevgeny Podkolzin, a group of Russian Defense Ministry officials and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin had already arrived.

"The use of air forces against any of the parties to the conflict must be ruled out. This must be the basis of a solution at the present moment," Grachev said.

He said Perry agreed with this and said no air strikes would be carried out on Monday. Attempts would be made that day to establish the exact location of the heavy weapons removed by the Serbs, Grachev said. He said the abundant snow was hampering the withdrawal of the weaponry. "This factor must come into account when decisions are made," he told Perry.

Grachev said civilians and Russian troops could be among the victims of the air strikes.

He made it clear that Moscow could send a reinforcement for the U.N. force if the Russian parliament approved it. "We are ready to respond to the appeal of the U.N. secretary general to send an addition contingent of up to 300 if such a decision were approved by the Federal Assembly," he said.

Perry Refuses Peacekeepers for Sarajevo

LD2102191094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev invited the United States to send its peace-keepers to Sarajevo to patrol Muslim positions, but U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry refused.

Grachev told his U.S. counterpart during a telephone conversation on Monday that "the position of the Muslim side regarding the NATO demands and the presence of the Russian force in Sarajevo is not clear for Russia" and warned that any provocations against the Russian peace-keepers would result in "a sharp aggravation of the situation and will disrupt mutual efforts."

The presence of U.S. peace-keepers in Muslim areas "would strengthen the situation in general and we could have ensured a close interaction between our servicemen," Grachev said.

However, Perry rejected the invitation.

Holds News Conference

LD2102212494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev agreed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the necessity for political settlement of the Bosnian conflict which might be worked out during a special summit between the leaders of Russia, the U.S., France, Great Britain and Germany. Pavel Grachev held a press conference after his telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of Defense, William Perry, on Monday.

According to diplomatic sources, the heads of the diplomatic missions of the U.S., France, Great Britain, Germany and some other states were discussing the possible summit on settlement of the crisis in Bosnia. This summit might take place in a European capital in the nearest future, the same sources said.

Does Not Rule Out More Peacekeepers

LD2102214694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today had a nearly 40-minute telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry. As before, the two officials discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the course of the conversation, Grachev proposed a contingent of U.S. troops be deployed in areas around Sarajevo which are predominantly populated by Bosnian Moslems. In his opinion, this would further improve the situation, after Russia sent its peacekeepers to the positions of Bosnian Serbs.

However, the U.S. Secretary of Defense said the United States did not plan to deploy its troops in these areas.

In turn, Grachev proposed deploying contingents of such West European states as Great Britain, France and Germany there. Perry promised to discuss the proposal with the other defense ministers.

Grachev said Russia insisted on the unacceptability of NATO air strikes on military installations of any of the warring sides.

In an interview with journalists after the end of the conversation, Grachev said Bosnian Serbs had withdrawn the bulk of their heavy hardware from around Sarajevo. He said he was confident that the Serbs will accurately fulfil all their obligations.

Grachev did not rule out the possibility that more Russian peacekeepers, including the 27th motor rifle division of the Privolzhskiy district and the 46th motor rifle division of the Leningrad district, might be deployed in the Sarajevo region, if necessary.

In an answer to journalists' questions, Grachev said NATO air strikes on Serb positions seemed very unlikely at the moment. He suggested that such strikes may be possible only in case of provocations, and are the most likely to be dealt on sporadically populated highland areas as "retaliation or pressure." He pointed out once again that any air strikes in the area were unlikely at the moment.

U.S. Ambassador, State Duma Official on Bosnia

LD1802213694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Interview with Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Russia, and Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs, by announcer Nikolay Svanidze in Moscow; from the "Details" program—live, Pickering in English with simultaneous translation into Russian]

[Text] [Svanidze] Good evening. Our program Details is now being broadcast live on Russia's TV. It will focus on the Bosnian crisis, in which a peaceful settlement has become possible after the initiative put forward by Russia yesterday. Today's guests are two politicians: Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, the chairman of the Duma Committee for International Affairs and, until recently, Russia's ambassador to the United States; and Mr. Thomas Pickering, the present U.S. ambassador to Russia. My first question is to you, Ambassador: Do you think that under the present circumstances the possibility of air strikes being delivered on the Serb positions near Sarajevo is still real?

[Pickering] I think that under the current set of circumstances, when the diplomacy of President Yeltsin has made a serious difference in the attitude of the Bosnian Serbs, and we are working together to carry out the evacuation and control of heavy weapons around Sarajevo—if all this continues to successful, then the main problems to be resolved in connection with the possible air strikes, will be the questions of violating the cease-fire. As you know, such attempts were made and the UN secretary general has asked for NATO's help in this respect. We hope no one will break the cease-fire. We hope for further success of Russian diplomacy. We hope that the process will reach a new stage and that we will perform that complicated work together and in partnership, which could bring a more permanent peace to Bosnia.

[Svanidze] I have the same hopes as the ambassador. Now a question for you, Vladimir Petrovich. This current achievement of the Russian diplomacy—if everything is resolved peacefully, as we all hope it will do—that will really be a great achievement. What effect is this going to have on the relations between the legislative and executive branches of power? What is the Duma's attitude to this at the moment? I mean the Duma as a whole—Mr. Zhirinovskiy, I know, will think it was all his work—but the Duma as a whole?

[Lukin] The Duma, as a whole, is a very complex notion. I must say that your suspicions are confirmed. The Liberal Democrats leader said today that all good things that are now happening or will happen in Bosnia, in Yugoslavia, have come about as a result of his visit there.

[Svanidze] Sure.

[Lukin] We all understand that he is exactly right. I will even say that there could not have been any other explanation, but the real problem is that I could not see any substantial differences in Duma's and our executive power's initial approaches to this problem. As you know, during the first days of this crisis, when the ultimatum was made, the Duma took a decision that said very clearly and unambiguously that it was against any sort of ultimatums, and expanding the scope of air raids. In the Duma's opinion one cannot reduce air raids and shooting by expanding the scope of air raids.

At the same time, the Duma stressed the need for a very intensive search for political solutions. I think that the president and the executive power acted in line with this decision, and developments that have taken place or are happening now in line with this decision can only upset those who are not interested in coordinating the efforts of all the elements of the Russian state structure.

[Svanidze] So do you think that the Duma shares this, let us hope, possible success for Russian diplomacy?

[Lukin] The Duma shares all Russia's successes, including those made by Russian diplomacy, as long as they are successes.

[Svanidze] Yes, of course. Ambassador, in your opinion, whose success is it—if it turns out to be a success? Was it achieved by Russian diplomacy, working together with the Duma, of course, the United Nations, or NATO? What do you think?

[Pickering] I have been in diplomacy long enough not to get involved in discussions of internal affairs in countries where I am accredited. But I think that there is enough credit to go around here. I think the most immediate step, and obviously (?a very important one), was produced by President Yeltsin's (?leadership) and various people working on the ground, and somehow (?we ended up with) a situation in which obviously the Bosnian Serbs had to consider very carefully what steps they took (?and they had to take account of) the work of the secretary general and the development of the UN position under the resolution. It all helped in the process of moving ahead. Realistically, I think we are not engaged in any fight or discussion about who takes credit [passage indistinct].

[Svanidze] Thank you. Vladimir Petrovich, what do you think about frequent talk of the contradiction in Western and Russian interests in the Balkans? This is stated frequently. What do you think about it?

[Lukin] I think that we have a lot in common. I think that in the long term our victories and defeats will be the same, although, I agree with my friend Tom here. Listening to him, I remembered a French proverb saying that victory has a lot of father and that defeat is an orphan, but as far as long term prospects are concerned, what sort of interests can people, not wishing to see a conflict, have? They want to stop the conflict, to reach an agreement, finally to put an end to people being killed

and see the observance of slight balances of national interests both within various communities—who brought about the explosion of the whole process—and on a more general scale in Europe. I am convinced that we can achieve this but one has to be careful. Every country has to look, not just in the mirror, but also in the window so that it can see its opponent, appreciate his arguments, and listen to them carefully from the very beginning. Only then will we achieve the settlement, we most definitely will because, of course, Russia wants fraternal and friendly nations—and that is what they are—to stop shooting each other. Finally, there is a chance, but I would like to emphasize that we are only talking about the possibility for settling this particular critical situation, however morbid it might be. After that there will be a very complex stage of settling the whole Bosnian problem. All sober thinking people, professionals and non-professional, will have to make a huge effort to resolve it.

[Svanidze] Incidentally, I did not know you were personal friends, Vladimir Petrovich, I was not warned about this. You may have agreed on this before the program began, or is that ruled out?

[Lukin] We have known each other long enough, and when Tom was leaving the United States we got together and had a lively and detailed discussion of our professional matters. We have met regularly since, and I have a great respect for this outstanding diplomat.

[Pickering] Thank you.

[Svanidze] Gentlemen, I have a question to you both. In the past few days, there has been a lot of talk about the health condition of President Yeltsin and his ability to work. More specifically, President Clinton failed to reach him on the telephone, and there have been many other rumors. Now it is known for sure that the message to the president of Serbia was signed by the Russian president who played an important role in—well, at this stage let us call it an attempt to resolve the crisis. Let me ask you first, Vladimir Petrovich: Do you think that this stance of President Yeltsin will boost his rating and raise his prestige both in Russia and abroad?

[Lukin] Well, first and foremost, I would like to say that I saw the president with my own eyes when John Major was here on a visit. I participated ex officio in some of the protocol events, and he was then in a normal working condition. The other side of the question—excuse me, what did you ask?

[Svanidze] The question was if Yeltsin's prestige would grow now because there has been a lot of talk about this recently—about his ability to work.

[Lukin] I think the prestige of everyone involved in this work will grow. I agree that in Russia the president was the person most involved in it, together with the people who worked on the spot. So, all the people who did this work deserve that their prestige should increase and it will increase.

[Svanidze] And what is your opinion, Ambassador?

[Pickering] I heard with interest what Vladimir was saying. I had great pleasure in being able to take part in the summit in January, and I thought that President Yeltsin's state was as Vladimir has said. I think that the leadership of President Yeltsin has played a significant role, as well as that of our country's president, since both them became involved in joint work. Unfortunately, due to a number of technical reasons, they failed to contact each other on the telephone, but they have been in touch several times since, including just this morning, and I have had several very good messages from President Clinton to your president, on developments in Bosnia, among other things.

[Svanidze] Our time is up, thank you very much. I remind you that the guests of the Details tonight were Vladimir Lukin, the chairman of the Russian Duma Committee for International Affairs, and Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia. Goodbye.

Further Lukin Comment

LD1802225894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1840 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Commission for International Affairs, by correspondent Boris Kalyagin; place and date not given; from the "The Bosnian Knot" program—recorded]

[Text] [Kalyagin] Russia believes that it is impossible to achieve a military settlement of the Bosnian problem: a peaceful settlement is required. Decisions influencing the situation in Bosnia must be taken not by NATO, but by the UN Security Council. Russia must not stand on the sidelines while such actions are being worked out and approved. This was stressed by President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in his conversations with Western leaders, and this stance is backed by the Russian public and by our parliamentarians.

[Lukin] We believe that in this matter the policy of the international community, of all countries including Russia, should be coordinated and based on true partnership. That does not mean some can take decisions and inform the others; it means decisions must be adopted jointly, however difficult that may be. That is mature partnership, based on equal rights.

[Kalyagin] Do you fully support the policy of our government in the Bosnian issue, or do you believe that there have been some omissions?

[Kalyagin] I believe that now the stance of the foreign ministry as it is being expressed is very close to what is contained in the statement. This position proceeds from the fact that our main task is to prevent bombing, to prevent air strikes, and naturally, to create conditions to stop the bombing of Sarajevo. That is the right aim. It is also right that our Foreign Ministry is demanding a

special decision by the UN Security Council on the question of whether to implement the ultimatum, to implement the threat. However, the problem is that one mistake brings others in its wake. I am firmly convinced that the earlier vote approving limited air strikes was a mistake...

[Kalyagin, interrupting] To protect UN convoys.

[Lukin] Unfortunately it was to protect UN convoys and civilians, which in itself is excellent and noble. But that can be used any way one wants. The Duma may express its point of view. Its statement will be very firm. The essence—I know this, knowing the mood of the Duma—is that if the United States and NATO adopt unilateral decisions in spite of our recommendations, in spite of the very insistent opinion of a partner, then the partner can adopt unilateral actions and statements as well. This is another question: it is a matter for executive authority, a matter for separate consultations, but I would not want that. I am in favor of partnership, I am in favor of joint decisions.

Vorontsov on Security Council Meeting Over Air Strikes

LD2102055994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0541 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 21 TASS—On Russia's initiative the United Nations Security Council convened for a closed-door consultations late on Sunday [20 February] to discuss the latest developments around Sarajevo. ITAR-TASS learned that the Security Council meeting was called because of Russia's serious concern over the unclear situation with the use of the NATO air force against the Serbian heavy arms near Sarajevo, including those which could not be withdrawn on schedule because of bad weather.

"The Russian Federation raised on Sunday afternoon the question about the convocation of the Security Council because the situation looked as though all the accords on Sarajevo could be disrupted because the Serbs left their arms to be taken over by the United Nations but the United Nations failed to take control because of snowfalls. We were very worried, because the weapons left uncontrolled by the U.N. forces could be seen as a bait for the beginning of air strikes, which are absolutely unnecessary in these circumstances," Russian ambassador to the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov told ITAR-TASS.

"This is why we convened the Security Council in order to draw the attention of all, including the U.N. forces, the U.N. secretary-general and his special envoy to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi, to the need to urgently take control over these weapons and preclude any possibility of unjustified air strikes, which could disrupt not only all accords on Sarajevo but also possible agreements on Bosnia and herzegovina. The moment was very tense, and this is why we convened the council," Vorontsov said.

"At the meeting, we raised these questions and stressed that neither the U.N. secretary-general nor Akashi must forget that the "clues" to air strikes were in their hands, in the hands of the United Nations and its secretary-general, and that the NATO command may not launch air strikes on its own, when it is quite clear that the Serbs are abiding by the necessary conditions and complying with the obligations they assumed.

"This is why we approached the U.N. secretary-general, the chairman of the Security Council and the council members to urge them to be most attentive to reminding the secretary-general that he is holding the key and that Mr. Akashi is on the spot and must see the situation as it really is, and not to open any "windows of possibility" for air strikes.

"But when we were discussing this question, a report arrived from Akashi that he would not make any decisions because the Serbs were true to their word, that the weapons had been withdrawn and that he would take control over those arms that still remained in place quite soon. Our aim was achieved. The possibility of a technical error because of the snow, which could result in very complicated, bloody and possibly irreversible events, was closed," Vorontsov said.

Responding to an ITAR-TASS question about the reaction of the Security Council members to Russia's intervention, Vorontsov said, "the members of the Security Council thanked the Russian side for the active part it took in solving this problem, for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's appeal to the Serb leaders and the attainment of the accord on the withdrawal of their arms from Sarajevo. They also appreciated the sending of Russian troops to Sarajevo. The troops are there and stationed close to Sarajevo, and this is seen as a good sign".

Russian, U.S. Delegates to UN Issue Joint Statements

LD2102095594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0804 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 21 TASS—The Russian and U.S. chief delegates made joint statements to journalists after urgent U.N. Security Council consultations held at the initiative of Russia on Sunday evening.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright said that the United States has just received good news from Sarajevo. Everything looks well for the time being. The U.S. will continue to watch very attentively to get convinced in the next few days that the NATO ultimatum is being fulfilled.

The United States is also very satisfied, Albright continued, that Russian troops intend to participate in the U.N. Protection Force and believes that a role to be played by Russians will be very useful.

Russian permanent representative to the U.N. Yuliy Vorontsov said: "The Russian Federation called for this Security Council meeting because it was worried during the day that snow would prevent UNPROFOR from taking weapons left by Serbs under its control.

"It looked at some moment that UNPROFOR cannot find these weapons in snow. That was a technical problem which disturbed us very much. Then, we received a report from Akashi that he intends to take these weapons under UNPROFOR's control, and there is no need for air strikes at this stage. This was good news."

'Blue Helmets' Contingent Arrives in Sarajevo

LD2002174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1656 GMT 20 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 20 Feb—The Russian contingent of "Blue Helmets" arrived in Sarajevo today. A convoy of several dozen APCs [armored personnel carriers] and trucks has completed a 250-km march from near Vucovar along Bosnia's snow-bound roads and across several difficult spots in the mountains. [passage omitted]

The 400 Russian" Blue Helmets" sent to Sarajevo will be stationed in Lukavica, a district in Sarajevo. As of Monday [21 February] they will conduct military patrols along the disengagement lines and in the areas where their heavy guns, which are being brought under UN control, are concentrated.

Starts Duties

LD2102102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb—Four hundred Russian airborne assault troops from the peacemaking battalion deployed in the Serbian Krajina (Croatia) have today started to carry out their duties in the buffer zone between the confronting sides near Sarajevo. The settlements where the Russian "Blue Helmets" are to be accommodated will also be named today. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by the press service of the airborne assault troops.

According to the same source the Russian subunits, which arrived on Sunday evening in the area set by the United Nations for separating the sides, were met by Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy, by Russian Airborne Forces commander Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, and by his peacekeeping force deputy, Major General Nikolay Staskov.

In conjunction with the UN forces command they are to resolve the issue of the need to strengthen Russian peacekeeping forces in this region.

Deploys Along 'Serb-Muslim Line'

LD2102122294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade February 21 TASS—Two reinforced companies of the Russian peace-keeping force in former Yugoslavia were deployed Monday [21 February] morning along the Serb-Muslim line near Sarajevo.

400 paratroopers are now guarding positions in Sarajevo outskirts of Grbavica, Vrace and Nedzarici, as well as the artillery of Bosnian Serbs handed over under UN control.

Kozyrev in Athens, Talks With Germany's Kinkel

LD1802122594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1012 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Athens, 18 Feb—Talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who arrived here yesterday, and Klaus Kinkel, head of the German foreign policy department, ended in the early hours. The parties discussed the development of the situation around the Bosnian co[illegible]ct in connection with the positive response to a personal letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin from Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadjic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and also from the Bosnian Serb parliament. The point is that the sides agreed to withdraw their heavy guns from a 20-km zone after receiving a promise that Russian forces would take part in the peace-keeping operations in the Sarajevo vicinity.

During an intensive dialogue lasting nearly three hours, the ministers got in touch by telephone from the residence of the German ambassador in Athens, where the talks took place, with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The parties are aware of the need to undertake a joint initiative shortly to advance the process of a settlement around Sarajevo and of the Bosnian conflict as a whole.

In addition to this, the ministers had an in-depth discussion of the state of Russian-German relations in connection with President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Germany, scheduled for late spring. K. Kinkel invited A. Kozyrev to visit Germany in order to prepare for the visit, and the Russian foreign minister will go there at the beginning of May.

Today sees the start of A. Kozyrev's consultations with the European "troika"—the former, present, and future presidents of the Council of the European Union; that is, the foreign ministers of Belgium, Greece, and Germany—and also, in all probability, telephone consultations with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Warren Christopher.

Discusses Aid to Northern Regions

LD1802183694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Athens, 18 Feb—The foreign ministers of Russia and the FRG discussed in Athens German assistance to the development of the northern regions of the Russian Federation. Galina Sidorova, political adviser to the Russian foreign minister, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that one of the subjects discussed by A. Kozyrev and K. Kinkel was German assistance in the development of contacts with Russia's northern regions, in the first place with Murmansk. Germany, as the future chairman of the Council of the Economic Community, intends to hold a meeting there of the three (the former, the current, and the future chairmen of the Council of the European Community), to see on the spot what can be done for establishing cooperation with Murmansk Oblast.

Germany intends to participate most vigorously in the development of this oblast and at the meeting of the ministers some specific decisions in this area were discussed. In particular K. Kinkel intends to propose a German town as a "twin-town" for Murmansk.

Germany is ahead of many other countries in terms of fleshing out its political partnership with Russia. If effective cooperation is established with Murmansk, this could serve as a positive example for other regions of Russia, the minister's political adviser pointed out.

A. Kozyrev and K. Kinkel also discussed the situation in the Baltic region and Russia's attitude to the Baltic states.

Holds News Conference in Athens

LD1802144694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Athens, 18 Feb—Russia will take part in peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo and in Bosnia as a whole, and will take the necessary steps, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated here today at his news conference. The news conference took place after his political consultations with three EC foreign ministers—those of Belgium, Greece, and Germany.

Kozyrev said that at the moment UN representatives are discussing the number of personnel in such formations. There is hope that this problem will be solved within the next few hours and Russian "blue helmets" will take part in the peacekeeping operations in Sarajevo. The main thing is not to miss the this opportunity but to move toward the peace settlement.

He said that Russia has historical, cultural, and religious sympathy with all the peoples of southern Europe and is interested in stability in the Balkans. It is in Russia's interests that all the states in this region should enjoy their sovereignty and independence and renounce all territorial or any other claims on each other by solving all the problems by political means. In particular, we are always ready to offer our help as mediators in solving controversial problems between Athens and Skopje, both of which we consider as friendly states, he said.

During all the stages involved in reaching a Bosnian settlement, the Russian minister said, we have been taking part in the efforts that are being made to resolve the conflict politically, both in Sarajevo and in Bosnia as a whole. These efforts have been manifested in the new Russian initiative to set up security zones, primarily around Sarajevo. They have found expression in the letter that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin sent to the Serbs, and to which their positive reply has been received.

A. Kozyrev commended the efforts by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, who has launched a personal initiative for moving toward peace in the region.

Reiterating the importance of B. Yeltsin's message, the minister said that Russia is now trying to get the United States and other partners to exert the necessary influence on all sides in the conflict, especially the Muslims and Croatians, so that they opt not for force but for using the opportunities opening up for achieving peace in Sarajevo and in Bosnia as a whole. The laurels for whoever does the most for this will be shared later, if this is necessary at all, A. Kozyrev concluded. The main thing is not to miss this new opportunity for peace in Europe.

Suggests Bosnia Conference Be Held

LD1802195994 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] In Athens Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, has suggested that an international conference on Bosnia be held some time next week. He said the call was for a conference on Bosnia and it came from President Boris Yeltsin. The United States, German, British, French, and Greek Governments had already been notified. Kozyrev made the statement after he met with his Greek, Belgian, and German counterparts in Athens. Speaking with newsmen in the Greek capital, he stated Yeltsin's call for the Serbs to remove their heavy weapons and the Serbs' willingness to meet this call created favorable conditions for a peace settlement. The minister said Russian peacekeepers were ready to be deployed in Sarajevo and other areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina. A spokesman for the United Nations has told the French news agency 400 troops of the Russian battalion based in eastern Croatia have started moving toward Sarajevo.

Political Adviser on Athens Visit

LD1802210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2004 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Malyshev and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Athens February 18 TASS—The Athens meeting of the current and future chairmen of the European Union's council focused on all aspects of the Bosnian settlement, said Galina Sidorova, political adviser of Russian Foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev who also participated in the Athens consultations.

The meeting participants praised the message of Boris Yeltsin to the Serbs on the need for joint actions of the United States, the European Union and other partners in order to boost the Bosnian settlement. A meeting of senior officials from the Russian Federation, the United States, Germany, France and Great Britain, as well as the European Council's "three" will be held next week to discuss a dialogue with the Security Council, the United Nations and the co-chairmen of the London conference on former Yugoslavia.

According to diplomatic circles, the meeting will be held in Bonn. There may also be a meeting of foreign ministers on the same issue.

The process was initiated by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Andrey Kozyrev, said Sidorova. After meetings with U.S. state secretary and foreign ministers of France and Great Britain, everyone supported the need for joint initiatives.

The Athens consultations also discussed the soonest signing of a treaty on cooperation and partnership by the European Union and Russia. The political declaration was signed by Boris Yeltsin in 1993, and the treaty will outline specific areas of cooperation and interaction.

There are some disputable questions, including exports of nuclear cycle materials and banking. Some voice the need for quotas on these goods, and the Russian side is against this. Russia is against any quotas on these goods. Sidorova said Greece is ready to help the soonest conclusion of the treaty.

The consultations analyzed European security, the situation in conflict zones on territory of the former Soviet Union, including Transcaucasia and Nagorno-Karabakh, and relations with Ukraine.

They noted general understanding on sanctions against former Yugoslavia. The question of sanctions will be raised as soon as settlement progresses, and this coincides with the Russian stand on the issue.

Describing the situation in Transcaucasia, Kozyrev stressed the interest in the involvement of CSCE and U.N. peace-makers, said Sidorova.

Kozyrev Arrives in Prague, Praises Visegrad Ties

LD1902092894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Text] Prague February 19 TASS—Russia is on the best of terms with all the member states of the Visegrad group, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who came to Prague for a working visit, told ITAR-TASS. President Boris Yeltsin is continuously maintaining personal contacts with the leadership of those countries, with which Moscow has contractual relations and with which agreements have been signed on a top level.

The Visegrad group is of much interest for Russia, Kozyrev continued. "We have tremendous respect for those countries and are building relations with them on the principles of equality." In his opinion, speculations on some "new Brezhnev doctrines" and the allegedly inequitable relations between Russia and those countries are absolutely groundless. According to Kozyrev, the time has come to "check watches" with all the countries of the Visegrad group early this year in order "to advance jointly, in harmony, towards complete mutual understanding."

"We are going to discuss in Prague some international problems, primarily the situation in Bosnia, and to analyse matters dealing with bilateral contacts in a broader context. I believe we have traditionally durable relations and good prospects for the future," Kozyrev said. In his opinion, it is necessary to discuss in a frank, calm and unbiased way how we should build our relations in the future and develop partnership.

We should discuss problems of building a new greater Europe. There are no ready formulae for it. According to Kozyrev, the participation in the Partnership for Peace programme is one of the ways and the joining of NATO is another. All countries, including Czechia, are resolving this problem by themselves. We are interested in finding most effective, balanced solutions concerning ways of developing partnership. But we should not regard NATO as the only way. We have the Visegrad group, we have other CSCE institutions, he continued. In the opinion of the Russian foreign minister, we should not contrast all those ways with each other, but on the contrary, to use them all.

"We are not linking our actions in the settlement of the Bosnian conflict with the NATO ultimatum. Actually we believe it does not have much to do with us. What is really important today is that it should not be an obstacle, that the 'war parties,'—the Serb, Croatian and Muslim extremists interested in the escalation of hostilities—should not take advantage of it.

The most important thing is that no one should try to disrupt with the help of provocations the positive process that has been started thanks to the initiative of

President Boris Yeltsin. The initiative of the Russian side was approved by the president three weeks ago. It is aimed, in the first place, at creating security zones, primarily around Sarajevo. "Now this initiative has been given a clear and vivid shape," Kozyrev said.

In his opinion, there is a possibility today to get back from unilateral steps to joint actions of the whole of the world community. The Russian president is maintaining direct contacts with leaders of many countries, especially with Chancellor Helmut Kohl (they had a telephone conversation on Friday). Contacts are also being maintained on the level of foreign ministers with the "European union three," the United States, Britain and France. Kozyrev believes that the G7 countries should be invited to take part in that process.

"The problem today is to take advantage of the opportunities, created by the initiative of the Russian president and a positive response to it of the Serb side, and not to allow various provocations to disrupt the process. We should strengthen it with the help of far-reaching agreements both on Sarajevo and on Bosnia in general," Kozyrev stressed.

Meets Czech President in Prague

LD1902175894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Text] Prague, 19 Feb—Vaclav Havel, the president of the Czech Republic, today met Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is visiting the republic during his tour of the Visegrad group countries.

They discussed issues linked to the setting up a new structure of European security and other topical international problems, and the role of the North Atlantic alliance and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in tackling them.

Views 'Partnership for Peace'

LD1902185694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Prague February 19 TASS—The dispute over NATO expansion has lost actuality after the adoption of the "Partnership for Peace" programme, according to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"We believe that the dispute has lost actuality at all. Now the 'Partnership for Peace' plan has been adopted and we believe that its implementation will give us a lot of work at least for the foreseeable future", he told a press conference on Saturday after meeting Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic Josef Zieleniec.

Both Russia and the Czech Republic have to implement the plan first and then think what to do next, according to Kozyrev.

"We believe that NATO is an organisation with which it is necessary to cooperate. But NATO is only one of such organisations. There are also the European Union, the CIS, the Visegrad group. That is why we are discussing how to use all these organisations, how to meet the challenges which none of them, including NATO and the CSCE, are ready to meet so far", Kozyrev said.

The Russian minister admitted that certain differences in the positions of the two sides do exist, but they are caused "not by a head-on collision of interests, but rather by the complexity of problems which are to be jointly solved."

"It was in this spirit that the issues of ensuring European security, including the crises in Bosnia and other hot spots, were discussed", Kozyrev said.

Zieleniec stressed that Russia had met with understanding the position of the Czech Republic about its integration into European structures.

He added that remaining bilateral problems, including financial issues, would be soon solved and that it is necessary to accelerate the preparations of a visit of the prime minister of the Czech Republic to Moscow.

Holds News Conference in Prague

LD2002162394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1455 GMT 20 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Text] Prague, 20 Feb—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev believes that the views of the Russian and Czech sides coincide: Both believe that the efforts of the world community should now be concentrated on consolidating the positive elements that have emerged in the settlement of the crisis in Bosnia, especially after the message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Kozyrev said this at a news conference for Czech and foreign journalists at the end of his talks with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus.

In addition to current international problems, questions pertaining to the further development of bilateral relations were also discussed at the talks.

Further on News Conference

LD2002174694 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Premier Vaclav Klaus and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a brief meeting with journalists after their two-hour long talks. Czech radio correspondent David Stahlavsky reports:

[Stahlavsky] Journalists' questions naturally concerned the situation in Bosnia and the ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs due to expire at midnight today. Kozyrev explained the visit of the special Russian envoy to Sarajevo by saying that, according to the agreement with Bosnian Serbs, 400 Russian soldiers will be transferred from Croatia to the Bosnian capital. Asked whether the envoy will stay there even after the ultimatum expires, Kozyrev said that Russia does not recognize this ultimatum.

Comments on Bosnia

LD2002203394 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2010 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Prague, Feb 20 (TANJUG)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev Sunday rejected the possibility that NATO should realize its threat to launch air strikes if Bosnian Serbs do not withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

'We disregard the deadline. We do not take the deadline (set by NATO) into account', Kozyrev told the press after a meeting with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus.

After accepting the Russian initiative for the deployment of Russian peacekeepers between Moslem and Serb forces, Bosnian Serbs Friday started withdrawing their heavy artillery from around Sarajevo. The operation is being hindered by snow and bad weather.

Meeting Kozyrev Friday, Czech Foreign Minister Jozef Zieleniec said it was important that Russian forces jointed NATO lately in establishing peace in Sarajevo [sentence as received].

Kozyrev however underlined that Russian forces in Sarajevo can act only under UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] command, adding that the peace conference would be resumed in a few days.

Kozyrev Sunday ended a two-day visit to the Czech Republic.

Ends Prague Visit

LD2102071494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0608 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Prague February 21 TASS—As concerns speculations about "Russia's sphere of interests in Eastern Europe", Russia does not imply anything else but its desire to develop comprehensive cooperation with the countries of this region," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in winding up the first leg of his East European tour in Prague.

He said the Visegrad group of countries was of special interest to Russia because it has long been linked to them by traditional political, economic, cultural and religious ties.

During his visit to Prague, the Russian minister was received by Czech President Vaclav Havel and held talks with Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and his Czech counterpart Josef Zelenc.

President Havel said the talks were "very intensive" and touched upon European security and the roles of NATO and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the European security process. Naturally, the Bosnian conflict was one of the main items on the agenda of the talks. Havel said that the Czech Republic was backing the NATO ultimatum but believed that preliminary consultations with Russia were necessary.

According to Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus the two countries expressed "very similar views" on all the problems under discussion. This applied to bilateral relations and to international issues, including the situation in Europe.

Speaking about the Czech Republic's attitude to NATO, Klaus said that "Prague was striving to become a "standard" European state and consequently a member of Europe's standard structures, including NATO and the European Union". In this respect the Czech Republic's membership of NATO would not mean that it seeks "to protect itself from Russia". It is intended to ensure national security and is not targeted against any other country.

The Russian minister told the Czech president that the aim of his visit to the Czech Republic, in accordance with President Boris Yeltsin's wish, was "to try and understand how our neighbours and our friends are feeling". He said that the desire to continue political dialogue on wide range of problems of European security and bilateral relations, confirmed by the sides during his visit to Prague, was an important result of talks in the Czech Republic. He stressed that there are extensive possibilities for the development of traditional cultural and religious ties between Moscow and Prague.

Responding to a question from ITAR-TASS, the Russian minister said he was leaving Prague with an understanding that two schools are now acting in the Czech Republic—one of President Vaclav Havel and the other of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus. The first one teaches how to combat totalitarianism in any form and how to struggle for democracy and human rights. The second school teaches radical economic reforms.

The development of religious and spiritual ties between the two countries was considered at a meeting between archbishop Milo Vilka of Prague and Archimadrite Feofan, who arrived in the Czech capital as a member of the Russian delegation.

The Russian foreign minister will continue his East European tour today. He is due to fly to Budapest.

Hungary's Foreign Minister Previews Kozyrev Visit

LD1802223594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zhirnikhin]

[Text] Budapest, 18 Feb—Since the replacement of totalitarian regimes, and Hungary and Russia embarking on the democratic path of development, the relations between the two countries have entered a qualitatively new stage. Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky stated this today to the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the occasion of the upcoming official visit to Budapest by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Naturally, many spoke of equality in the Hungarian-Soviet friendship during the "Communist period" though in reality Hungary was in a clearly subordinate position, the minister said. The USSR constantly interfered in the internal affairs of our country. Nevertheless, the Hungarian people never identified the Soviet policies that in many cases violated the national interests of Hungary, with the stance of the Russian people. Many in our country understood and continue to understand that it was the peoples of Russia who were, in the first place, the victims of Stalinism and the communist model, G. Jeszenszky pointed out.

In this connection, he said, suffice it to recall the events of 1956 in Hungary, when most of the Soviet soldiers and officers in the country understood the true nature of the popular uprising. This is why, at the decisive phase of suppressing the revolution, they were replaced by a "fresh" contingent of troops from another part of the USSR. Some soldiers and officers took the side of the uprising against the Communist dictatorship of the Hungarian people. One can only speculate how many were subsequently executed for failure to obey orders.

G. Jeszenszky expressed hope that the new Russian Federal Assembly, unlike its predecessor, would ratify the treaty between the two countries with the paragraph condemning the Soviet intervention in the 1956 events in Hungary.

The minister thought it necessary to recall that beginning with August 1991 in the Soviet Union, the Republic of Hungary has consistently been one of the first to voice support for the democratic forces in Russia and their leader, Boris Yeltsin. In recent years, he stressed, our states have established good and constructive political relations that are free of any ideological element. President Yeltsin's official visit to Hungary was a timely high point to these relations, and the documents signed in Budapest provided a boost to development of bilateral economic ties.

The question of the ex-USSR's debt of $2 billion to Hungary was also resolved. Under an agreement reached, Russia inherited the debt and has already delivered various military hardware to half that sum. Intensive negotiations are now underway regarding the remainder.

The upcoming talks with A. Kozyrev will focus on Hungary's relations with NATO and East European countries' involvement in the Partnership for Peace program, G. Jeszenszky said. He said he was firmly convinced that a close relationship between East and Central European countries and NATO, and their subsequent joining of that military-political bloc, would in no way run counter to Russia's national interests. Hungary realizes, he said, that a certain part of the Russian public has preconceptions about NATO. The old stereotype has been too hard to kill off and many people in the Russian Federation still see the alliance above all as an enemy. But it is obvious to all who are familiar with the history of the North Atlantic alliance that it has always had a purely defensive nature and has never threatened anybody, Russia included. The minister thought that Russia should be interested in calm and stability in the region that abuts its western borders. In turn, NATO's very existence has a beneficial influence on political stability in central Europe, and this is precisely why Moscow should not be anxious about NATO expanding in the region at Russia's expense.

The "South Slav crisis" will occupy an important place in the upcoming Russian-Hungarian talks. In this connection, the minister pointed out that at all international bodies Hungary has always advocated an active role for Russia in resolving the Balkans conflict. The events of the past few days provide solid grounds for hope that the Russian leadership's constructive initiative to solve the Bosnian crisis will be successful, and that NATO air strikes will not be required. This became possible primarily because of Russia's even-handed policy, which took into account the problems and concerns of the Bosnian Serbs, and also of the Croats and Moslems living there.

G. Jeszenszky said in conclusion that in any event Hungary will not play any role in NATO military action in Bosnia if it goes ahead. The main reason for this, the minister said, is that a significant Hungarian minority lives in Vojvodina (Serbia). Concern for the interests of ethnic Hungarians and the fact that the Hungarian and Serbian peoples are neighbors means that we must stand aside from "any use of force in Bosnia," the foreign affairs minister said.

Kozyrev Arrives in Hungary

LD2002230694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2214 GMT 20 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zhirnikhin]

[Text] Budapest, 21 Feb—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is to begin a working visit to Hungary today [21 February]. He will visit Budapest during his tour of the countries of the Visegrad group which include Hungary, Poland, and the Czech and Slovak Republics.

The head of the Russian foreign policy department will hold talks with his Hungarian counterpart, Geza Jeszenszky, and will meet Hungarian President Arpad Goncz and Prime Minister Peter Boross.

In the opinion of the Hungarian side, apart from the development of bilateral ties, the talks will discuss, above all, relations between Hungary and NATO, the participation of the countries of Eastern Europe in the Partnership for Peace program, and ways of resolving the Bosnian crisis.

Discusses Bosnia With Jeszenszky

LD2102194194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Report from Budapest—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] After intensive negotiations in Prague, Andrey Kozyrev arrived in the Hungarian capital today. During the meeting with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, the parties talked not only about bilateral relations, but also about the Yugoslav crisis. Despite a wish to please NATO, so desirable to the countries of the Visegrad Four, Hungary is not inclined to support the bombing of Serb artillery. Serbs and Croats are its closest neighbors. Any escalation of the conflict will result in thousands of refugees and the instability on the border. Meanwhile the economic blockade of the former Yugoslavia has already cost Hungary $1.0003 billion. The Hungarian position is therefore close to the Russian one, and this was reaffirmed by the two ministers.

However, their approach to the expansion of NATO remains different. The Partnership for Peace is seen in Budapest as a first step toward NATO membership. However, Hungarians realize that they would need enormous financial means, as well as time, in order to join NATO.

Tomorrow Andrey Kozyrev will continue his talks with Hungarian leaders.

Postponement of Kozyrev's Slovakia Visit Explained

LD2102171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] As Interfax learned from the Foreign Ministry in Moscow, the head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, who already visited Athens and Prague in the framework of his European tour, has decided to postpone his trip to Bratislava. "This decision was made in answer to Slovakia's request," a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

The coalition government of Vladimir Meciar "is going through a crisis", he explained. "Evidently this is not the best time for a visit," he added.

According to the diplomat, initially the capital of Slovakia was to be the first point of Kozyrev's European tour. However, because of the aggravation of tensions in and around Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russia's foreign minister began his tour with Athens, to confer with the European Union's "group of three": the foreign ministers of Greece, Belgium and Germany—the European Union's current, previous and subsequent chairmen.

As Interfax's interviewee noted, from Athens Kozyrev went to Prague, and, on Monday morning, to Budapest. The head of Russian diplomacy is expected to spend two days (Monday and Tuesday) in the Hungarian capital. The next point of his tour will be Krakow, where Kozyrev and his Polish counterpart, Andrzej Olchowski, will attend a conference on the Russian-Polish relationship on the road to a new partnership.

Kozyrev is expected to return to Moscow on Wednesday.

"However Kozyrev may make some changes in the program of his tour. It's quite possible that he will suspend it in order to visit Bonn, where consultations on the ways to reach a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be held on Tuesday," the diplomat said.

The foreign minister's secretariat confirmed that Kozyrev had postponed his trip to Bratislava. "As for Bonn, his deputy, Vitaly Churkin, who was in Sarajevo, went there on Monday. So far Kozyrev is not expected to pay a blitzvisit to Bonn," a member of his secretariat said.

Bundeswehr Chief Sees End to Confrontation

PM2102112594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with General Klaus Naumann, inspector general of the Bundeswehr, by Mikhail Zheglov; place and date not given: "In Future Russian and German Peacemakers Could Work Together, Bundeswehr Inspector General Believes"]

[Text] General Klaus Naumann, inspector general of the Bundeswehr, is on an official visit to our country. On completing his talks with Russia's military leadership he gave an exclusive interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

[Zheglov] Herr General, on the eve of your visit it was announced that, in addition to military-political questions, you intended to discuss purely military issues in Moscow. What specifically did that mean?

[Naumann] I discussed the main areas of Russian-German cooperation for the current year with Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff. Basically this plan envisages organizing 20 bilateral events. By these I principally mean visits, meetings between servicemen from the two armies, and familiarization with the system of training in military-training institutions. The program also envisages an exchange of opinions on the issue of military budgets. All these

measures, in our view, should help people in uniform to find out as much as possible about each other.

[Zheglov] You are the first Bundeswehr representative to visit our 27th Motorized Infantry Division. Why are you interested in this combined unit?

[Naumann] The host side is not only giving me the opportunity to familiarize myself with Russia's Ground Forces but also to visit Missile Forces, Air Force, and Air Defense Forces units. My visit to a Strategic Missile Forces installation, for example, has been interesting because during this era of openness I am getting the opportunity to look at things which for years were carefully concealed. My being allowed to look at missiles is proof of how much trust has grown up between us. However, the same can be said for my visits to the Moscow Air Defense District and the Kubinka Air Base. With regard to the 27th Motorized Infantry Division, I am glad of the opportunity to visit this combined unit which is actively preparing to participate in peacekeeping operations under UN auspices. It is also interesting because in the course of time joint actions by Russian and German servicemen in these sorts of operations are not being ruled out. Nor is it an accident that during my talk with the chief of the Russian General Staff I spoke about the need to further strengthen cooperation between states and armed forces engaged in peacekeeping activity.

[Zheglov] How do you assess the current situation in former Yugoslavia, where the largest UN peacekeeping operation in history is being conducted?

[Naumann] Recent events in this region have tested the effectiveness of Europe's security institutions to keep the peace. We must call a halt to this situation. In my opinion both Russia and Germany are keen to do this. It is time to put a stop to a situation in which the Paris Charter is essentially being flouted in Europe. Specifically, we must stop unilaterally laying the blame on one of the parties in the conflict. We must also make every effort to stop the crazy destruction of the innocent civilian population. This is the end toward which all NATO's actions are directed. I hope that all the parties to the conflict realize this and will put their heavy weapons under UN control or withdraw to a distance of 20 km from Sarajevo.

[Zheglov] If a decision is eventually made to bomb Bosnian Serb positions, will FRG Air Force planes take part in the air operations?

[Naumann] Chancellor Kohl has made a firm and unequivocal statement on this matter: Not a single German serviceman will take part in this sort of operation.

[Zheglov] Events in former Yugoslavia are influencing the processes of establishing and strengthening common European security systems. What role can and should Russia and Germany play in this process?

[Naumann] In my opinion, Russia and Germany play a important if not decisive role in the process of establishing a European security system. Russia is the largest country in Europe, it also has significant interests in Asia. With its population of 80 million Germany is certainly not puny in the economic sense, and it thereby makes its contribution to European stability. In this sense both our countries should strive to cooperate. Of course our approaches to various problems may not coincide. But in any case we need to look for ways ahead that lead not to new lines of confrontation but to mutual trust. For example, as far as I can understand following my talks with your defense minister, Russia regards the "Partnership for Peace" program somewhat differently from the East European countries. But in any case we are approaching the day when there will be no confrontation in Europe.

As a phrase, European security is indivisible sounds wonderful. However, the current state of affairs is such that people in Sarajevo, for example, regard it as empty talk. Unfortunately, therefore, it is a wish rather than a reality.

Concludes Visit

LD1802133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Yugina]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 18 TASS— Bundeswehr General Klaus Naumann wound up his visit to Russia by meeting this country's military leaders and seeing sights in St. Petersburg, Russia's second city.

During his talks with the Leningrad Military District commander, Colonel-General Sergey Seleznev, the two generals agreed that considerable progress has been made in military political relations between Germany and Russia, including new, mutual beneficial forms of partnership. Germany is, for example, assisting the North- Western Military District in building housing for Russian troops withdrawn from Germany.

The Russian general spoke about his country's participation in the Partnership for Peace program, and stressed that cooperation between the two countries was of vital importance for stabilisation in Europe as a whole.

Both generals agreed that it was necessary to look for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Bosnia.

The Bundeswehr general visited the city's historical and cultural landmarks, including museums and theatres, and the Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery where he put wreaths and flowers at the tombs of the victims of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad.

Klaus Naumann will be leaving for Bonn later today.

Kozyrev, Germany's Kinkel Analyze Reforms

AU1802205394 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 18 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "Russia's Greatness Will Not Be Determined by the Number of Troops It Has"]

[Text] At the time of the Cold War, the ideological-military confrontation between East and West was mirrored in the extensive economic isolation of the Warsaw Pact states. The FRG, for example, was traditionally the Soviet Union's largest Western trading partner, but in 1989 trade with the Soviet Union accounted for only 1.5 percent of total West German foreign trade, that is, less than trade with Denmark. The Soviet model of the past was autarky motivated by military considerations, and that was the case even at a time when war between the two nuclear alliances was impossible and it was clear that the future belonged to whoever led in the civilian technology field.

Now that the Cold War is over, we have a chance to achieve lasting peace. In Western Europe, economic integration has led to stability and enduring peace. Economic cooperation and the growth in prosperity resulting from it are significant elements in a new security structure for all of Europe. We want to achieve a state of affairs in which security is primarily guaranteed by extensive ties, cooperation, and trust, not by military capability.

Open markets promote an international climate of confidence and fair dealings with each other. They encourage the exchange of ideas and bring peoples close to one another. Free trade relations promote peace.

What now has to be produced is a "Strategy for Partnership" for the democratic states of the East and West. The basic idea underlying such a strategy is that in a rapidly changing international environment, mutual interests have to be taken into account and that there should be a long-term strategic vision rather than short-term responses to individual events. One of the most important elements of such a strategy would undoubtedly be support for the reforms in Russia and the Eastern European states.

A democratic, stable, economically healthy, open, and predictable Russia accords with the interests of the entire world. It must be clear to everyone that the world does not need a weak, strife-torn Russia, but needs a Russia that is a strong partner, one that will make an indispensable contribution to the creation of global peace structures and will assume a lasting place in the family of free, law-governed, and democratic states. That is the most effective way of putting a stop to aggressive nationalism.

Everything possible must be done to give Russia and the reform states of Eastern Europe access to world markets. However, this is only possible to the extent that conditions for free enterprise are created in Russia. The decades of squandering Russia's natural wealth by providing artificially cheap energy at the expense of the population is an example of how violations of free market laws harm the people. Thus, market-oriented reform in Russia is not only a condition for full participation in the global marketplace, but also a condition for the economically sensible and thrifty use of Russia's own domestic strengths. That in turn is a condition for Russia's economic success. Russia will only become democratically stable if it is economically successful, and it can only become a lasting partner for stability in Europe and the rest of the world if it is democratically stable.

Russia has had a democratic constitution since 12 December 1993. The Russian parliament enjoys democratic legitimacy. Thus, Russia has moved much closer to membership of the European Council. At the same time, the foundations of the framework for a law-governed state, which is necessary for the functioning of social market economy, have been created. The free market economy needs an active start that can protect its function with regard to competition and laws. A law-governed state and certainty about legal conditions is a basic condition for political and economic freedom.

After World War II, West Germany had an opportunity to rebuild the country, which had been ruined, with a social market economy. A social market economy means combining the freedom of the market with the dictates of social justice. At first, West Germany also experienced a wave of inflation and unemployment while the war economy, with its excessive emphasis on armaments and heavy industry, was converted to meet the demands of the population of a country living in peace. Once this conversion crisis had been overcome, however, the social market economy came to mean increasing prosperity for all.

The situation in Russia today is in some respects different from that in West Germany 45 years ago. However, the mechanisms of free market development, which were effective then, are no less effective today. Whoever disregards them pays the price in the form of stagnation and decline.

Russia possesses immeasurable reserves of mineral resources. However, its greatest wealth lies in its inhabitants, in their professional qualifications, their spiritual strength, and tenacity. Russia possesses first-rate educational reserves. In the research and development field, there are many technologies in which it is a world leader. This valuable potential must be retained and developed.

The transition from centralized command and administrative structures as well as state monopolies to a decentralized free market economy based on competition is a unique historical process for which there are no models. The right course will be a tightrope walk between extremes. A shock without therapy is no less dangerous

than a therapy that only tries to treat symptoms without addressing the roots of the illness. A difficult political balance between the exigency of effecting a transition and the vital necessity of maintaining social stability will continually have to be struck. Adjustments will be inevitable. There is no ideal way leading to the future. However, there is even less of a way back.

Without the reformist beginnings of the past few years, the current situation in Russia would be all the more difficult. The latest economic data provide grounds for hope: Russia's position in foreign trade is beginning to improve, the privatization program is making impressive progress, production is gradually responding to signals from consumers. Russia is demonstrating that it possesses the capacity for self-renewal, a capacity that has enabled Russia to survive times of crisis so often in its history.

Russia cannot simply copy Western models and theories. Russia will modernize, but it will not give up its deep-rooted culture and wealth of tradition. In the same way as the requirements in Russia are unique, reform processes must also take account of the elements unique to Russia's situation. The free market economy in Germany is, for example, different from that Japan, although the fundamental principles are the same.

With active German support, Russia has made considerable progress on the way to global economic partnership: It is an equal member in international financial institutions and a partner in dialogue with the G-7. Germany will promote the development of this dialogue. Germany supports Russia in developing closer ties with the OECD. The Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls will be disbanded. Instead, Russia will become an equal partner in a new forum that is to collect comprehensive information on exports of military technology worldwide. Extensive progress has been made in negotiations between the EU and Russia on comprehensive agreement on cooperation and partnership. So far, Germany has provided Russia with assistance totaling almost 90 billion German marks. It thus accounts for over 50 percent of worldwide support for Russia's reforms. This unequivocally reflects Germany's firm commitment to engage in partnership with a democratic Russia.

The unilateral transfer of assistance is not, however, a permanent state of affairs. It can only assist the growth of solid, mutually advantageous trade relations, but cannot be a substitute for Russian efforts to achieve a transformation. Until now, Russia has primarily exported raw materials. It must now enter world markets with technologically advanced products. That assumes that military production will undergo conversion with the aim of boosting civilian prosperity.

In the future, Russia's greatness will not be measured in terms of the number of soldiers or weapons it has, or the size of its territory. Russia's global role will become all the more important if it succeeds in developing a future-oriented, democratic model of society, bolstering CSCE principles, contributing to an increase in prosperity—in Russia and worldwide—and participating constructively in mankind's great future tasks. Not military capacity for destruction, but economic and technical capacity, and positive development will determine states' status and influence. Russian intellectual and cultural life must once again assume its appropriate place in cultural dialogue.

Change begins in the mind. If one analyzes the economic successes of the countries of Southeast Asia, one notes that a large number of highly gifted students studied abroad for a time and brought back new ideas and impulses. The same path is also open to the former communist reformist states. For almost three generations, there were virtually insurmountable barriers between the intellectual life of Russia and that of the rest of the world. Now, there has to be a lot of catching up in this respect. Exchanges for students and academic staff must be expanded. That is the only way in which understanding between peoples can grow and knowledge and experience can be used for the good of all transcending all borders.

It is also important that Russians themselves see the results of cooperation with other countries with their own eyes. With that in mind, models for this kind of cooperation must be created in the individual regions of Russia. The Murmansk region, which one of the authors of this article represents in the Russian Parliament as a democratically elected deputy, can serve as an example in this respect. This Russian region, which was previously hermetically sealed off, is now being extensively opened up for direct contacts and cooperation with neighboring states and other countries. To provide active support for this process by promoting specific economic and investment projects means demonstrating that our partnership is reality.

After World War II, Germany achieved a peaceful reconciliation with its neighbors by way of democracy and the free market economy. This not only facilitated the unification of Germany, but also opened up opportunities for the economic and cultural blossoming of the whole country. Today, Russia has the same opportunities. The transition is difficult and will require time. The Russians themselves know that best of all. However, through that transition, Russia can finally develop its potential and find its role in the international community.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Aide Previews 24 Feb Address

LD2100132894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—The presidential message to be delivered by Boris Yeltsin at the Federal Assembly (Russian parliament) on February 24 is aimed at consolidating society and pulling the country out of the economic crisis, the president's assistant Georgiy Satarov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday.

It is also packed with proposals on state construction, he added. "The pause taken by Yeltsin in connection with his cold was used to improve the text of the presidential message," Satarov continued.

In Satarov's opinion, it was possible to formulate a concept reconciling opponents during intensive consultations with representatives of various viewpoints on ways of pulling the country out of the economic crisis.

According to the president's assistant, a section of the message dealing with the construction of a law-governed state is interesting. He noted that this section contains a valuable idea of combining the principles of a strong and efficient state which is, at the same time, free from a totalitarian heritage.

"The state's entire force should be aimed, among other things, at protecting constitutional human rights," Satarov stressed.

He also added that "the message has no elements of emergency measures, despite the crisis situation in the country".

The section on the state's federal setup, which was drafted by Sergey Shakhray, minister for nationalities and regional policy, and Emil Pain, head of the ethnic policy group of the Presidential Council, also contains the consolidating idea of ethnic parity and inter-ethnic partnership.

"It is very important for the presidential message to turn into an action programme for all the arms of government," Satarov concluded.

Yeltsin To Seek Reconciliation

LD2102201694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] President Yeltsin's aide Georgiy Satarov said that the presidential message Boris Yeltsin intends to deliver on 24 February to the Federal Assembly is intended to seek reconciliation with his opponents. Despite the crisis in the country, the message is devoid of any elements of an extraordinary nature [chresvychayshchina].

Address Not Finalized

LD2102182894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is yet to finalise his state of the nation address to be delivered to parliament on Thursday.

Experts of the presidential administration are to hand in to the president their final conclusions on Tuesday after which Yeltsin is to introduce his final remarks to the document.

TASS learned on Monday that the most active role in drafting the address was played by presidential aides Yuriy Baturin, Aleksandr Lifshits, Georgiy Satarov, Emil Pain, Leonid Smirnyagin, as well as by Nationalities Minister Sergey Shakhray.

Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential staff, told TASS on Monday that the personnel of the Kremlin printing shop have been informed they may work the whole night on February 23 to print the presidential address.

The document which consists of 70 pages will be handed out to Russian lawmakers on Thursday, while the president will deliver a summary of it during half an hour long speech.

Yeltsin Resumes Duties Following Illness

LD2102052694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2156 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin resumes his duties in full on February 21 after suffering from a cold, with the permission of his physician.

"After necessary medical consultations the president's personal doctor allowed Yeltsin to resume his duties in full," said Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary.

Not Giving Interviews

LD2202134894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Of the official meetings in Moscow, attention is being drawn today to a meeting held between the presidents of Russia and Kyrgyzstan. By all accounts the Russian president has not fully recovered from his cold, and so he is not giving interviews. [passage omitted]

Kostikov Discusses Illness

LD1902194994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Interview with Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Kostikov by Sergey Medvedev; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Medvedev] During the week, the media corps has managed, as ever, to set so many rumors in motion that, like it or not, one wants to listen to one of those people that we regard as a first-hand source.

[Begin recording] [Medvedev] Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, we've known each other for a long time, so I'll skip the niceties and ask you straight: If the President's illness, er, cold, is so serious, then why did he appear this week with Major in the Kremlin? Or is his sickness not really very serious, and the President is using it to gain a little time, to sit tight, because his speech isn't ready? How would you respond to that?

[Kostikov] Well, Boris Nikolayevich's cold really was quite serious. He had a temperature and in general he had to make a bit of an effort and show statesman-like discipline to take part in Major's visit and in the talks, although probably in view of the medical evidence he should have stayed at home.

But I'd say that there's a second aspect to this, which you mentioned in part. The president has made use of his indisposition, if I can put it that way, and taken a kind of political time out to reschedule his current meetings and ongoing workload so that he can complete work on a very important political document, his address to the Federal Assembly, which is, in fact, an address to Russia and the people of Russia.

[Medvedev] Is the document ready now, or still being worked on?

[Kostikov] You know, the president's habit is to keep working on a document until virtually the very last minute. It's a very large document, and naturally the president couldn't read all of it through, because 70 pages of text would probably mean the president taking the rostrum for four or five hours. So, the speech that is expected on 24 February will be a condensed version of the document, a 30- or 40- minute presidential speech. On the same day, the full text of the president's address will be distributed to deputies so that they can familiarize themselves with it in greater breadth and depth, each to his own section of it.

[Medvedev] Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, the government is in no hurry to publish its economic manifesto. Does this mean that the Kremlin in fact is the legislator for political and at least economic policy, and that the cabinet is waiting for the address, after which it will act?

[Kostikov] I think that this wait-and-see policy of the government and Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin has been influenced by a certain degree of political tact and in general a realistic understanding of who makes policy in Russia and how. [end recording]

Yeltsin To Reorganize Presidential Staff

LD1902180094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has received documents on reorganizing his staff and other presidential bodies, chief of the president's staff Sergey Filatov announced on Saturday [19 February].

To quote Filatov, the general reorganization plan has been coordinated with the president. This work is being done in view of the changes in the president's functions, specified in the new constitution. The president must be provided with quality materials on matters which are not in his direct competence at the moment and which are handled by the executive bodies, including various aspects of the economic reform, financial and budget policies, taxing etc.

Undoubtedly, the president must have his own position on these problems, said Filatov. Special emphasis will be laid on the personnel policy. A council for personnel policy and 3 commissions will deal with these issues and ensure ample supply of skilled specialists. He also said that the analytical service will be updated. The several old analytical centers will be replaced with a modern one. A council of experts and analysts will generalize the information.

A special team of experts will deal with emergency information and create models of solving specific socio-economic problems.

Filatov announced that the service of president's aids would be developed. The president is likely to appoint new people to these posts soon. Nine departments will be set up, 12 will be reorganized and 24 commissions and councils working on an unpaid basis will be established.

President's Party To Build Support for Reform

LD1902145694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Chief of the Russian president's Staff Sergey Filatov stated that the idea of setting up a president's party should not be understood as a formal call for building yet another formal organization. It is going to be an organization that would build up support for the reform. He told the Council of Representatives of the Democratic Russia movement on Saturday that the concept of such a party had been proposed with a view on the parliamentary and presidential elections in 1996, given the need to preserve the president-initiated course of reforms, whether or not Yeltsin would remain in office.

He urged the Democratic Russia movement to become a force on which Yeltsin can and must rely.

He said that by the summer of 1994 social tensions might increase. He therefore urged the democratically-oriented organizations to preserve their unity. A split in

the democratic camp was the main cause of the democrats' set-backs during the elections last December, he said.

If the democratic forces do not become united, society would turn away from them, he went on to say.

He told Interfax that the president's annual message to the federal Assembly was ready and that it would be presented at 11:00, February 24, in the Kremlin's Marble Hall.

He also pointed out that the new democratic association, created by Yegor Gaydar, was part of the president's party and an organization of democratic forces supporting Boris Yeltsin's reforms.

Filatov Denies Use of Executive for New Party

LD2102200394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 35 (525)]

[Text] Filatov has denied speculations about plans to use the vertical executive structure to establish a pro-presidential party. "There are no plans to set up a new party from on high", he said.

Filatov called for unity by pro-democracy movements to back up the Yeltsin-launched reforms. "It would be more correct to speak in terms of a party of presidential reforms", he said.

Filatov says the upholders of reforms must not break up into "rump" associations. "The people expected pro-democracy groups to unite in the run up to the December election but each of them worked for its own goals and they seem committed to doing so by fielding their own candidates for Russian presidency. If so, pro-communist groups will triumph", he said.

In a speech to the meeting by the council of representatives of the Democratic Russia Movement [DRM], the Kremlin Chief of Staff said the idea of a pro-Yeltsin party should be taken as a call to mobilize pro-Yeltsin supporters in aid of his reforms rather than set up yet one other formal structure. In his words, the concept of a pro-presidential party is aimed at the 1996 presidential election to ensure the continuity of reforms with or without Yeltsin himself.

He called on the DRM to become a force that Yeltsin could and must lean upon in what he was doing.

Filatov does not rule out the heightening of tensions by this summer reiterating his call for unity by pro-democracy groups because the disarray within the democratic camp was one of the main reasons for their poor showing in the December election.

Gaydar on Creation of Unified Democratic Party

LD1902175494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—Yegor Gaydar, the leader of the Russia's Choice parliamentary faction, urged on Saturday to join forces with the "Democratic Russia" party and merge into a new political party which will oppose conservative forces during parliamentary and presidential elections in two years.

He told the Council of the Russia's Choice that this should be a political party with a strictly fixed organisational structure which will give an "adequate rebuff to those well-organised forces in Russia which intend to disrupt the process of democratic reforms and return Russia to totalitarianism".

Gaydar added that the new organisation should advocate "traditional liberal and conservative views" and would be in opposition to the current government if it attempts to restore the former Soviet system of economic management.

"We do not support the policy of the government in general, but we are ready for constructive cooperation and will support any of its positive initiatives", Gaydar said adding that the party would be categorically against the restoration of the administrative system and decisions boosting inflation.

Gaydar said that President Boris Yeltsin is an "important obstacle on the way of extremists to restoration" of the old system. "a Chinese wall between us and the president is very dangerous, strategically we are allies and partners", he added.

Gaydar stressed that it is necessary to hurry up with the creation of the new party as "Russia has actually begun the big election marathon".

The founding congress of the party is scheduled for May 28, according to Gaydar.

Addressing the "Democratic Russia" Party, Gaydar called on it to unite and create a "political organisation which will be able to coordinate actions in human rights protection, oppose Communist and Fascist propaganda and efficiently run election campaign".

Gaydar Seen as Target in Russia's Choice Dispute

MK2202111094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 2

[Maksim Shiryamov report: "Uneasy Mood in 'Russia's Choice'"]

[Text] At the 19 February council meeting of "Russia's Choice," to the surprise of many people the editorial

commission proposed that the performance of the movement's central ruling bodies be deemed unsatisfactory.

The proposed draft resolution states that neither during nor after the election campaign did the movement's leadership "show any signs of life." As a result, a significant number of its regional branches have been completely disoriented and demoralized. The situation in the State Duma faction is allegedly hardly any better. Sergey Yushenkov, deputy chairman of the movement, dotted the i's by saying that in the council there is "an unsavory game" under way which is spearheaded by the movement's executive director, Gennadiy Burbulis, and which is aimed at bringing down its chairman, Sergey Kovalev. However, as the draft resolution pointed to the Duma faction's lack of thought-out policy and the movement's general passivity, this means that the question about the "Russia's Choice" leader himself, Yegor Gaydar, has been raised in all its magnitude.

Yegor Gaydar has preferred to avoid any binding assessments of the acute situation. As for "the hero of the occasion," Mr. Burbulis, he had warned beforehand, Kovalev said, that circumstances did not allow him to attend the council meeting.

It was proposed that there be no discussion of the document, which should only be taken into consideration; 46 delegates supported this method of settling the dispute against 13 "No" votes.

In addition, the council approved a resolution regarding the creation of a new party. Although it should be a "parliamentary" party, it will nonetheless have registered individual membership and tight discipline. A constituent congress was scheduled for 28 May.

Democratic Russia's Council of Representatives Meets

LD2002172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] The Council of Representatives of the reformist Democratic Russia movement has expressed the apprehension that setting up a new pro-reform political party as proposed by the Russia's Choice bloc would weaken Democratic Russia and deprive it of its independence.

The council, meeting in Moscow on Sunday, rejected a resolution practically unanimously approved on Saturday by the Russia's Choice council (coordinating body). The resolution, drawn up by Russia's Choice Council Chairman Sergey Kovalev and Democratic Russian co-chairman Grigory Tomchin, expressed support for the proposal to form a new party made by the Russia's Choice parliamentary group and urged regional Democratic Russia branches to help organize the party.

The Council of Representatives turned down another resolution, accusing Russia's Choice of neglecting Democratic Russia's interests during the runup to the last parliamentary election.

The council approved a resolution proposed by Anatoly Shabad, a member of parliament, which says there are "serious reasons" to create a new party and that Democratic Russia "wishes the organizers success in the implementation of their initiative and hopes that the (new) organization... Will become an important part of the democratic movement."

At Shabad's motion, a provision was added to the resolution giving Democratic Russia's regional branches the freedom to participate in the formation of the new party's grassroot organizations as much as they wished. The resolution was passed by 95 votes against three, with 11 abstentions.

The Council of Representatives also instructed the Democratic Russia leadership to "immediately start consultations with leaders of democratic organizations and blocs for holding a unity congress of democratic forces of Russia no later than April."

Democratic Russia Leader Opposed to New Party

LD2102172294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] "We are opposed to the idea of a new democratic party being formed on the basis of the Democratic Russia Movement (DRM)," one DRM leaders, Gleb Yakunin, told Interfax on Monday. He commented on the DRM's refusal to join a new party launched by the initiative of leader of the Russia's Choice (RC) faction Yegor Gaydar.

Yakunin said that although DRM representatives from Moscow backed up the RC leader during a meeting over the weekend, those not from the country's cities were opposed.

The council of DRM representatives issued a statement expressing its wishes for the new party's success, hoping "the new organization will become a vital part of the democratic movement."

Yakunin says the DRM has been the breeding grounds for "rigid structures and parties" in the past three years. He said that enough was enough and the movement did not want the new party to steal its "electorate and activists"

He called on the Gaydar-led party to recruit members outside the movement but not as happened when Russia's Choice election alliance was formed.

On DRM and RC goals, Yakunin said that as a broadly-based movement, the DRM's attitude to the nomenklatura was "guarded and even negative" unlike the RC which unites regional administrators and bureaucrats. In his words, unlike the RC which was formed from on-high, the DRM was forged on the ground.

However, Yakunin rules out any split within the RC parliamentary faction consisting both of RC and DRM representatives.

DPR Faces Split as Travkin's Authority Wanes

MK2202110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report in the "Parties" column: "A Regional Split in the DPR. Travkin Tries To Create an 'Election Mechanism' for the Party"]

[Text] On 19 February the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] held its sixth congress, devoted to the results of parliamentary elections and the party's activity in the new political conditions.

As DPR leader Nikolay Travkin said in his political report, four years ago the party was created to fight communism, but now it must become "an election machine." For this purpose it is necessary on one hand to create "a stiff party backbone," and on the other to put in place an institution of DPR supporters. Therefore the congress made changes in the DPR rules: It introduced the notion of party supporters with an advisory capacity in decisionmaking. Furthermore, to consolidate the DPR organizational structure, a National Committee was created with broad powers for the period between congresses. Nikolay Travkin also took the course toward party centralization: As of now, under the revised DPR rules, any party organization may be dissolved by a superior one. This change was apparently made following the conflict in the DPR Moscow branch which was disbanded on 6 November 1993 by the party election headquarters for the organization's falling membership, disruption of the signature-raising campaign, and its position on the September-October events, which manifested itself in the Moscow organization's strong condemnation of the Russian president for the coup he had staged.

Many regional divisions charged the party's central bodies with failing to assist the election campaign at the local level or provide material assistance (Nikolay Travkin and Yevgeniy Malkin repeatedly stated that the party has enough funds).

Conflicts with the regions are not confined to the Moscow organization: thus the National Committee did not include representatives not only from Moscow but also St. Petersburg, Chita, and Krasnodar. It was even decided to send a representative from the party leadership to St. Petersburg in view of the elections to the State Duma and the conflict that has developed there.

Therefore, instead of further integrating his party Nikolay Travkin may actually disintegrate it. According to the DPR Moscow branch Political Council, the party has approximately 2,000 activists left in Russia, with a registered membership of some 8,000.

Furthermore, the election of the party chairman has shown that Nikolay Travkin's authority has fallen. He was clearly shocked by the results of the secret ballot: 63 delegates voted for Travkin and 39 for Aleksey Leushkin. Travkin told the congress he is ready to contest presidential elections if such leaders as Sergey Shakhray and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy also run.

LDPR 'Satisfied' With Zhirinovskiy

LD2102183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) [LDPR] Higher Council was satisfied with the fact that the energetic foreign political initiatives of the LDP Leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, his visit to Yugoslavia and the firm stand of the Liberal Democratic Party in the State Duma had made the Russian Foreign Ministry listen to the party's position and take a position conforming with the interests of Russia at the negotiations with NATO and the U.S.A.

"The bombardment planned by NATO did not take place. Thousands of Serbs have been saved. The working out of methods of exercising pressure on Russia by the West has been stopped. Withdrawal of all foreign troops from Yugoslavian territory is currently high on the agenda," the LDP statement published on Monday says.

Zhirinovskiy To Be Tried for War Propaganda

LD2102165294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The criminal suit against leader of the Russian Liberal Democrats Vladimir Zhirinovsiky for war propaganda will be investigated by the military court, Interfax was told by reliable sources.

The suit against Zhirinovskiy was brought on January 26 following the publication of his book *The Last Dash to the South.*

The sources say that so far Zhirinovskiy was not summoned to the court. Investigators are studying the text of his book.

War propaganda (Article 71 of the Russian Criminal Code) is among the gravest state crimes and carries a sentence of 3-8 years of imprisonment.

Zorkin Denies Role in New Political Movement

LD2102185694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1740 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Constitutional Court [CC] Judge Valeriy Zorkin in an interview with Interfax has denied reports alleging that he was one of the leaders of a newly-emerging movement, the People's Alliance [PA].

Political scientist Aleksandr Tsipko and former Russian deputy Oleg Rumyantsev were also reported to be on the PA's leadership.

Zorkin admitted to his knowledge of and respect for those two persons though he denied holding any talks with them on the creation of a new movement because of his status as CC Judge.

Zorkin reaffirmed his determination to continue as CC Judge and expressed surprise over repeated allegations of involvement in the setting up a new party, movement or foundation. "I have no such plans and will stay put as CC Judge", he said. And he added that "there is no telling what will happen to the Constitutional Court itself because we live in a country whose present is unpredictable".

At the same time, Zorkin hopes the CC will resume its proceedings because the State Duma is due to consider a new bill on the Court very soon.

Public Chamber Meets for First Session

LD1902090194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—The first session of the Public Chamber under the Russian president opened at the Marble Hall of the Kremlin today. The chamber was formed on the order of President Yeltsin on the basis of the Public Chamber of the Constitutional Conference. The objective of this consultative authority is to promote contacts between federal authorities and public organisations and to take part in the drafting of resolutions of the president and government on key social and political problems, relying on public opinion. The Public Chamber should create a mechanism of feedback from individuals and public organisations to state bodies. Today members of the Public Chamber will discuss elections of representative authorities in subjects of the federation, as well as of local bodies of power.

Edict on Legal Compliance With Constitution

PM2102144794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 94 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 62 dated 31 January 1994 and signed by Chairman of the Russian Federation Government V. Chernomyrdin "On Ensuring Work in Fulfillment of Edict No. 2288 of the Russian Federation President of 24 December 1993 'On Measures To Bring the Legislation of the Russian Federation Into Line With the Constitution of the Russian Federation'"]

[Text] The Government of the Russian Federation decrees

1. That ministries and departments of the Russian Federation shall within one month prepare and present to the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice lists of acts of the Government of the Russian Federation which are deemed to have lapsed or to require amendment or supplementing in connection with the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice shall within one month generalize the proposals of the ministries and departments and prepare and submit to the Government of the Russian Federation a draft decision of the Government of the Russian Federation on this question.

2. That the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice with the participation of interested ministries and departments of the Russian Federation shall within two months prepare and submit to the State Legal Administration under the president of the Russian Federation proposals to bring acts of the president of the Russian Federation into line with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

3. That the lists of acts of the Government of the Russian Federation referred to in part one of this decree and the proposals to bring acts of the president of the Russian Federation into line with the Constitution of the Russian Federation shall be presented together with an explanatory memorandum containing the necessary justifications.

4. That ministries and departments of the Russian Federation shall ensure within two months that departmental normative acts be brought into line with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation
[Dated] 31 January 1994
Moscow
No. 62

New Communications, Information Agency Created

LD2102205694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] President Yeltsin has decreed perfecting activities of information departments in the bodies of state power in Russia.

To pursue a single policy in the field and eliminate the duplication of information and telecommunication systems, the Presidential Information Resources Department is abolished and is replaced with a Federal Communication and Information Agency at the Presidential Administration.

The new department will be in charge of distributing information and technically servicing the information and telecommunication systems of the presidential administration, cabinet, and other structures.

This is said in a report, released by the presidential press-service in Moscow on Monday.

Yeltsin Sacks Staff Information Department Head

LD2202091394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 22 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sacked Vasiliy Kuprianovskiy,

his staff's information department head, for "a single critical failure in performing his duties".

Yeltsin also relieved another staffer from his duties. Andrey Voykov, the presidential deputy chief of staff, has been relieved of his post following his appointment as chief of staff of the State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly.

Anti-Terrorist Group Vympel Disbanded

LD2202133394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1215 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The former Security Ministry's special anti-terrorist group Vympel has actually ceased to exist. Out of its 500 members, 320 have moved to other agencies and 120 decided to quit, a Vympel officer who preferred to remain anonymous told Interfax.

He said that the Vympel personnel had categorically refused to work with the Russian Interior Ministry, thus defying a corresponding presidential directive. Explaining the reasons for the refusal, he said that the Vympel personnel were of the highest possible qualification and that operations run by the Interior Ministry were inferior to the ones run by the former KGB and Security Ministry.

Since its establishment in 1981, Vympel has worked under the supervision of six agencies—the KGB, Russia's Federal Security Agency, the Inter-Republic Security Service, Security Ministry, the president's central security department and, finally, the Interior Ministry.

To quote the officer, the recent decision lowered the group's status considerably because previously it had the status of an independent agency. Moreover, the Vympel personnel fear lest the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of maintaining order in this country, might force the group to perform functions it has never dealt with.

"We've already been put in a dubious position twice—in August 1991 and in October 1993, and we don't want this to happen again," he said. In October 1993, he continued, Vympel officers refused to fulfil the president's order to assault the White House. Only on October 4 did they offer their assistance to ensure the surrender of the defenders of the parliament building—Aleksandr Rutskoy, Ruslan Khasbulatov and others, thus avoiding further bloodshed. "Incidentally, we fulfilled our task without a single shot," he said.

The Vympel staff would agree to work with the Security Ministry's Federal Counter-intelligence Service which has a department for combating terrorism, contraband and corruption, and an economic security agency, said this officer. He believes that the top leaders have taken a different decision in revenge for the events last October. "We are simply being disbanded," he said.

He expressed regret that the leadership had actually destroyed an agency which far excels the special group Alfa. Whereas Alfa is oriented towards combat operations against terrorists, Vympel specialized in performing special tasks abroad. It had 90 staffers who had a good command of foreign languages, and more than 90% of its personnel had a higher education. Many had gained combat experience in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Angola and Mozambique. Among them there are unique specialists: divers, paratroopers, field engineers, radio operators and snipers.

Many of the Vympel staffers have found jobs in the Federal Counter-intelligence Service, Chief Security Department, External Intelligence Service, the Ministry for Emergency Situations and commercial bodies.

He also said that some of the Vympel officers could join agencies training terrorists. One Vympel employee was recently detained for training militants.

Any Vympel officer can easily make explosives and incendiary bombs out of ordinary substances sold in stores. "They have been trained to do so," he said.

Economic Issues

Revenue, Spending To Increase Under New Draft Budget

LD2102185994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] There was a meeting of the expanded collegium of the Russian Finance Ministry in Moscow today which examined the draft budget for 1994. In the draft approved by the collegium revenue is fixed at the level of 118 trillion rubles [R], and expenditure at R178 trillion. Both figures are substantially higher than in the draft budget which was being drawn up under the leadership of Boris Fedorov.

In an interview with our correspondent, acting minister Sergey Dubinin explained the rise in the revenue base by the intention to take a number of measures aimed at raising the effectiveness of collecting existing taxes. Moreover, it is anticipated to enhance the regions' interest in levying VAT by clearly dividing the proceeds from this tax between the center and the regions.

The acting finance minister also said that the ministry recognizes the state's debt over the past year only at a level of R3.8 trillion. He said that under the slogan of clearing debts many enterprises were trying to get money for output which the state didn't order. Sergey Dubinin said that the ministry planned to clear its debts during the first quarter.

Finance Ministry Cuts Deficit

MK2202094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Bekker, Yelena Kolokoltseva report under the "Government" rubric: "Struggle Over Budget Goes on. Oleg Soskovets: There Is No Lobbyism in Russia"]

[Text] Yesterday, acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin submitted to an expanded collegium meeting of the Finance Ministry a report on the results of the ministry's work on the 1994 budget. Two weeks ago, Viktor Chernomyrdin approved in principle the draft budget proposed by the Finance Ministry and directed that it be sent to the Central Bank and sectoral ministries for approval. Initially it was expected that the prime minister himself would attend the collegium meeting, but he was unable to come to Ilinka Street on 12 February "because of the state of his health," and was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

The main item of the agenda was the consideration of relations between the center and the regions, particularly between the federal and local budgets: Representatives of the Finance Ministry and the regions have not discussed the problem together since last September. The Finance Ministry's view on this problem is clear: It is based on the division of tax-collecting powers between the government and the regions. The territories will be given the right to regulate income tax rates, to keep a greater share of the VAT [value-added tax], and to impose local taxes. Regional representatives, however, are not very pleased with the Finance Ministry's stance, as they believe that budget appropriations could have been greater.

At the same time, under initial requests from sectors and regions the Finance Ministry would have to appropriate them 240 trillion rubles [R] in 1994, whereas according to Mr. Dubinin's estimates a realistic amount of revenues to be received by the treasury will be only R118 trillion. The acting finance minister's fears are not groundless: Last year's arrears of taxes to be paid to the federal budget amounted to R3 trillion, or 8 percent of the entire amount of revenues.

According to Sergey Dubinin, the Finance Ministry has lately been working on cuts in budget expenditures: Appropriations for the coal industry have been slashed from R11 trillion to 6 trillion, and those for the defense industry from R50 trillion to 37 trillion. In all, expenditures have been cut down to 173 trillion. The Finance Ministry plans to cover some of the deficit by giving preferential credits through the Central Bank, issuing securities, and by foreign borrowing. By some accounts, however, the Finance Ministry has already included in the budget assets the second part—$1.5 billion—of the IMF's systemic loan, although talks on releasing the money have not yet concluded.

Similarly, it is not quite clear why the draft budget approved 7 February had a deficit of 7.4 percent of GDP whereas Mr. Dubinin "reduced" it to 5 percent at the collegium meeting yesterday. Maybe he was inspired to present such ambitious plans by the upcoming talks with IMF chiefs.

At any rate, Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets could hardly have prompted Sergey Dubinin to make so sweeping an adjustment to the budget. At the collegium meeting yesterday, the acting finance minister acknowledged that the budget was formed in an atmosphere of confrontation with many sectoral ministries, and that the Finance Ministry had to withstand pressure from numerous lobbyists. Oleg Soskovets noted in that regard that we do not have any lobbyism at all. But if the peasants are bracing for seeding time, the state must give them money to buy fuel and seeds, and if the Cherepovetsk and Lipetsk combines have not settled accounts with coal producers, it is the government that must repay their debts.

Ministry Draws Up Economic Guidelines for 1994

PM2102160994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 94 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed report under "In the Government" rubric: "Economy Ministry Proposes Cautious Reform Option"]

[Text] The Ministry of the Economy has prepared an extensive report defining the basic guidelines of the cabinet's strategy for 1994 which is to be presented to the forthcoming enlarged session of the Russian Government.

The Russian Federation Economy Ministry is planning its strategy with a view to containing the federal budget deficit at a level of 5-6 percent of GDP (in 1993 the figure was 11 percent) and reducing inflation at the end of the year to 8-10 percent a month (in January it was over 22 percent). If that is achieved, so Deputy Economy Minister Yakov Urinson noted at parliamentary hearings, we can expect an increase in capital investments, an end to the decline in production, and the stabilization of and beginning of growth in the population's living standards.

The Economy Ministry leaders have been "floating" their main ideas for the current year in the economic community in an attempt to enlist the broadest possible support for them. They have been giving assurances of the continuation of market reforms and a moderately tough financial and monetary policy.

The ministry believes that the most important area here is targeted support to the least privileged strata of the population. Total spending on social needs is planned at a level of 16 percent of GDP. The absolute total will depend on revenue. To strengthen the revenue section of the budget the ministry leaders propose that the existing taxation system be left unchanged. The belief is that, if it is stable and predictable, entrepreneurs will adapt to easily and the tax services will be able to collect their "due tribute" more fully. The majority of industrialists and entrepreneurs will hardly support that idea. They believe that excessively high taxes will destroy production. Furthermore, it is the development of production which increases the potential for boosting the budget. All the alternative economic concepts express criticism of the present tax system.

Some 17 percent of enterprises ended last year with losses. They were sustained by the republic budget, thereby increasing the budget deficit and putting the process of structural reorganization "on ice." There is quite a lot to be done if they are to be removed from the protection afforded by the budget and production potential is to used as the market "dictates." Some will end up bankrupt, while some enterprises of special economic or social significance will need help. The ministry promises among other things targeted assistance to major facilities in the coal and metallurgical industries and in the production of fertilizers.

The structural reorganization is connected with the ending of monopolies, which are hindering the development of market relations and cornering state aid. It is well known, for example, that a considerable proportion of the aid to the agro-industrial complex is going not to rural commodity producers but to the processors of their output, suppliers of the means of production, banks, and trade, which use their monopoly position to "redistribute" resources to benefit themselves.

Striking Oil Workers Demand Presidential Election

PM2102160194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 1

[Albert Kozlov report under the "News" rubric: "Following the Miners' Lead"]

[Text] Thousands of Russian oil wells have been idle since the first day of this month. Others are coming to a halt. Each day the country suffers a shortfall of 150,000 tonnes of oil. The reason is the customary one these days: The sector is in a state of deep economic crisis.

Strike committees have been created in all the regions. The demands being made are not only economic but political, too—the early re-election of the president of the Russian Federation on the grounds that he is incapable of ensuring Russians' social guarantees or protecting citizens from actual extinction. People in the north are in an especially grave position. They have not been paid their wages, and kindergartens and maternity homes are being closed. There have already been quite a few cases of starvation in families with children.

Informing the president of the difficult position of the oil and gas sector, representatives of the trade union stressed in a letter to him that they cannot approve of the government's economic course, which has led to the abandonment of previously won social guarantees. The trade union has demanded immediate measures to extricate the extraction industry from crisis.

Military Issues

Kolesnikov on Differences With Grachev

PM2102092194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 3

[Arkadiy Khantsevich report citing interview with Chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov: "Evening Visit to the Chief of the General Staff"]

[Text] After the appearance in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (15 February) of a report on the resignation of the chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, a report which has not been officially confirmed for us at the chief of the General Staff's apparatus (despite many phone calls to the colonel-general both on the ordinary city telephone and the official "hot line," our attempts to contact him personally proved futile), Mikhail Kolesnikov did agree to receive your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent. In conversation with him he said:

[Kolesnikov] The chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff has made no reports or statements. Nor would I say that a number of steps taken by Grachev lately have caused disagreement, at least not of a principled character. Of course, the defense minister and I meet several times a day and we are bound to defend our own viewpoints, but ultimately there has not been an occasion when we did not find consensus, as they say in the city.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Mikhail Petrovich, does it follow from what you say that you agree with all the decisions taken by the defense minister and that you have no disagreements with him?

[Kolesnikov] You know, in our Army there is a golden rule which permeates all our Army structures—from squad or platoon level to the level of the Defense Ministry itself. This is rule number one: In the decision-making process the commander is obliged to listen to the opinion of his deputies and aides before announcing his decision. This rule underpines the Army's very existence—the rule of unity of command. We give our viewpoint frankly to the defense minister in person and I, as chief of the General Staff, give the view of the General Staff as a large number of highly professionlal workers, but I cannot cite a single example when our ultimate decisions differed radically.

Yeltsin Unwilling To Discharge Last USSR Marshals

MK1902140094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Last Marshals To Get a New Lease on Life in Eden"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that Boris Yeltsin has refused to discharge from service the last three Marshals of the Soviet Union.

Documents presented to the president for consideration called for Marshals Sergey Sokolov, Viktor Kulikov, and Vladimir Petrov to be discharged from the Russian Armed Forces because they all are above 60 years of age (age qualification for servicemen). Boris Yeltsin not only refused to sign the order to discharge them, however, but also, according to information from knowledgeable sources, said that he would never sign them and that the three marshals may serve as long as they themselves wish, even up to their very death.

Currently, the marshals serve as advisers to the Defense Ministry. Earlier they headed a group of general inspectors known in the Armed Forces as the "Eden group."

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Gives Duma Former Gosplan Building

LD1802152494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb—Boris Yeltsin today offered the State Duma the building of the former USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee] in the center of Moscow not far from Red Square.

In accordance with a edict signed by the president, the head of state's press service reports, buildings in Okhotnyy Ryad and Georgiyevskiy Pereulok have been assigned to the Duma as its official residence.

While repair work is going on in these premises, the Duma will be temporarily accommodated in the building occupied by the Russian Academy of Administration in Prospekt Vernadskogo.

Yeltsin Appoints Voykov to State Duma Post

LD2102190894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict today on relieving Andrey Voykov of the post of deputy head of presidential administration in connection with his appointment as head of the apparatus of the Federal Assembly's State Duma. This was announced by the head of state's press service today.

Yeltsin's Relations With Duma 'Becoming Strained'

PM2102115794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 2

[Ravil Zaripov "View from the Sixth Floor": "The President and the Duma: Things are Heating Up..."]

[Text] Yesterday Russian President Boris Yeltsin was supposed to have delivered the annual address to parliament. The event did not take place and the speech was postponed until 24 February. Sergey Filatov, leader of the Presidential Administration, gave your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent the reasons for the postponement: "First, Boris Nikolayevich does not feel well and, second, there have been many telephone calls from the leaders of the territories asking for the dates of the president's speech and the enlarged session of the government, which was scheduled for 25 February, to be brought closer together. Otherwise they would have to fly to Moscow too often," Filatov explained.

The head of state's state of health is no trifling matter: It gives rise to a host of rumors and suppositions, and it is the prerogative of the attending physician to dispel them. However, it could be suggested that the ailment was most opportune. It enabled the president to take a time-out from the Bosnia crisis and postpone the explanations with parliamentarians on that matter.

Recent events in parliament show that mutual relations between the president and the State Duma are becoming strained. It is too soon to talk of a conflict, but.... After some reflection the president cast doubt on the legitimacy of the lower chamber speaker's election. In reply the parliament almost denounced the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements (they were 30 votes short). And as previously promised it created a parliamentary commission to investigate the events in Moscow in September-October last year. Only 46 people voted against this (in other words, it was also supported by deputies from Russia's Choice). Unlike the criminal investigation instituted into the mass disorders on 3-4 October, the results of the parliamentary investigation will carry a political assessment. It may be variance with the Prosecutor's Office investigators' findings. So a return to this question (albeit at the level of parliamentary hearings) is hardly what Boris Yeltsin wants.

The parliamentarians decided to move from the City Hall building offered by Yeltsin to one of three other places: the White House, Staraya Ploshchad, or...the Kremlin. "How practicable is this decision?" I asked the initiators of the idea. "We will elevate the document to the rank of a law," Anatoliy Lukyanov replied. Whether this influenced the president's team or not is hard to say, but Sergey Filatov came to the latest session of the Duma Council (a body which includes the leaders of the factions and the speaker) and offered the lower house of parliament the former USSR State Planning Committee building on Okhotnyy Ryad Street where the Russian Federation Economy Ministry is presently located. The Council agreed, but whether the Duma will agree is another matter. The building is in need of capital repair which could take as long as the deputies' entire term of office.

There is a reason for the parliamentarians' show of autonomy. The Duma clearly does not like the bit-part

which Boris Yeltsin has assigned to it. At the moment mutual re' ions are typified by the unsophisticated formula: "I adopt the decisions, you ratify them." The deputies' factions received the text of Russia's treaty with Georgia the very day before the signing, when there was no longer any point in discussing it. They had missed the boat. Hence the problems with ratification.... The president's moves always take deputies by surprise. The Duma does not have 20 people to set out the Boris Yeltsin's position on this or that question, let alone lobby for his ideas.

But what about Russia's Choice? It is distancing itself increasingly from the president. Added to that is the clear absence of factional discipline. Burdened by their political weight, many of the Russia's Choice people are steering clear of routine parliamentary work. This is clearly visible from the balcony—from the right, crew-cut ranks of the Communists, the Cgrarians, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. From the left—the preserve of People's Choice—the vast open spaces of empty seats. What is the point of lobbying there?

Chernomyrdin Sends Rybkin Priority Bills

LD1802172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 34 (524)]

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin used his powers under the new Constitution and sent Ivan Rybkin, Chairman of the State Duma, a list of priority bills the cabinet wants approved in the first quarter of this year.

The 60 bills in the list are regarded by the government to be essential for continuation of the reforms in 1994, Vladimir Kvasov, the government chief of staff, told Interfax in an exclusive interview. The list includes amendments of the Criminal and Criminal Processing Codes and pension and value added tax legislations. The government will ask the law makers to start working on payment for land, land utilization, privatization and technological policy legislation.

Even this incomplete list confirms the government resolve to stay on the reform course and to have a legal basis for this, Kvasov said. He described the argument advanced by numerous political scientists and columnists that departure of Yegor Gaidar and Boris Fyodorov reflected a change of the government course as "not serious." He explained: "Did only these two carry the reforms out while the other nearly 30 members of the government were standing by? Because nearly all other ministers have retained their jobs, it would be wrong to say that this is a new government."

He confirmed that the government was "actively engaged" in preparation for a meeting which would discuss the country's economic situation and the prospects for its development in 1994. The national budget and ways to put it on a sound basis are also under discussion.

"The Russian government did not ask scientists Abalkin, Shatalin, Petrakov and their teams to work out any programs but it will not reject considering any model of economic development which might do Russia good," Kvasov said.

He described the government headquarters as a working body one of whose functions was to concentrate the government's attention on priority fields such as the socioeconomic policty, fuel and energy, transportation, communication, conversion of defense industries to peaceful uses and the investment policy.

A machinery structured function-wise rather than sector-wise is capable, Kvasov thinks, of helping the government to stay on this selective course, thus reducing the dangers of sectoral lobbying. Kvasov believes that this is especially important now that the country was short of finances and material resources.

He dismissed media reports of differences inside the government. "A machinery where about 750 senior officials are engaged does not duplicate the functions of ministries or departments. Its enables the government to have things done. This is the formulation of the Russian Council of Ministers Act, signed by the president on December 22, 1992, or 20 days before I became head of this echelon," Kvasov emphasized.

He said that there was no truth in the press reports to the effect that his office was capable of tackling political matters such as laying the groundwork for the next presidential elections. "The headquarters was designed as a purely economic, not political, office. Over 100 doctors and candidates of economic sciences make the core of its personnel. We draft about ten government ordinances daily. Nearly 4500 such documents were processed in the headquarters and its personnel carried out over 46,000 orders of top authorities last year. With this amount of work the headquarters simply cannot share in political tugs-of-war and we never wanted it," Kvasov said.

In his view, the government has "a sufficient safety margin" and is strong enough to withstand political attacks. Certain people are trying, however, to make life hard for the government by provoking strikes and adding to social tensions. The opponents of reforms are trying, he said, to play "the miners card."

Parliament Seeks Greater Financial, Budget Control

MK1802104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 2

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report in the "Committees" column: "The Duma Wants To Recover the Budget Control Committee. The Government's Reaction So Far Is Not Clear"]

[Text] The Committee on Budgets, Taxes, and Banks and Finances, headed by Mikhail Zadornov (Yabloko), intends to return to parliament jurisdiction the Budget Control Committee, which was placed under the control of the Council of Ministers in September 1993 under Edict 1400 "On Phased Constitutional Reform," along with the State Statistics Committee, the Pension Fund, and a number of other organizations. In 1993 the Budget Control Committee, headed by Ms. Polunina, was under the Supreme Soviet's jurisdiction, playing an active role in the confrontation between Boris Fedorov and the parliament. At that time the committee accused the Finance Ministry and the government of manipulating the budget and "withholding" state revenues.

Aleksandr Pochinok said in this connection, "I am very grateful to Viktor Chernomyrdin for preserving this committee; otherwise the highly qualified people working in it would have simply gone away and the records would have disappeared... This committee was created as an analytical budget structure of the Supreme Soviet apparatus, and it can be transformed into a most efficient Accounts Chamber [Schetnaya Palata]. Therefore we ask the government to return it to us."

The position on this issue by Mr. Chernomorda, who currently heads this committee and who has prepared a plan for the Budget Control Committee's activity in the first quarter, is not known.

The Duma's Budget Committee proposed introducing in 1994 changes and amendments into the budget and banking legislation or adopting new laws On the Foundations of the Budget System and the Budget Process in the Russian Federation; On the Russian Federation Central Bank, Banks, and Banking Activity; On the Limit of Foreign Loans; On the Federal Budget and the Budget System in 1994; On Demarcating the Budget Powers between the Components of the Russian Federation Budgetary System; and On the Basic Principles for Granting Subventions, Subsidies, and Financial Assistance from the Federal Budget to the Federation Components.

The parliament's Subcommittee on Central Bank Activity, which is now chaired by former finance minister Boris Fedorov, in its turn will hold—after consultations with Duma deputies, the Banks Association, and individual commercial banks in February through March—hearings in the lower parliament chamber on the Central Bank's money and credit policy and performance. The subcommittee intends to obtain explanations from the Central Bank on its operations on the money market, hard currency operations, its reserves and participation in other banks and international organizations, as well as about the Central Bank's interaction with the government and local power bodies.

Deputies Discuss Bosnia, NATO Ultimatum

PM1802214594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Academician K. Panferov, deputy of the State Duma: "Anxious Expectation. Sunday February 20 NATO Ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs Expires. Discussion in the Duma"]

[Text] The bombing of the territory of the former Yugoslavia must not be allowed—that demand was expressed in all the speeches from Russian State Duma deputies at the parliamentary hearings held by the State Duma's Committee on Questions of Geopolitics under the chairmanship of the historian, Viktor Ustinov.

During the discussion N. Stolyarov, the committee's deputy chairman, asked this question: Will peace reign as a result of the planned and coordinated third-party intervention in the Balkan crisis? "It may be said unambiguously and with a great degree of accuracy: No, no, no!" he said. The possible bombing of the Bosnian Serbs will be the result of an inhuman and dishonest political game. Russia must in no circumstances be a party to this conflict.

A. Frolov, a member of the Geopolitics Committee, stressed that since Russia's withdrawal from the ranks of the great powers all the peacemaking missions conducted under the UN flag have turned into unilateral interference in the internal affairs of various states. Today we are seeing NATO's anti-Serb tendency. With regard to this conflict Russia, regrettably, has for a long time now not had a position of its own based on its national and state interests.

Deputy Mikhaylov, a spokesman for the Defense Committee, focused his speech on the fact that the present situation on the territory of the former Yugoslavia is a consequence of the shortsighted position taken by Russia on the Balkans. Russia's leaders must do everything possible to prevent the barbarous and inhuman bombing action.

Deputy N. Krivelskaya from the Security Committee asked representatives of the Foreign Ministry: If Russia does not exercise its right of veto in the Security Council, how will Russia's foreign policy line be implemented at all?

In the course of the hearings parliamentarians came to the conclusion that the UN Security Council's imposition of economic sanctions on Yugoslavia, sanctions which Russia supported, has done tremendous harm both to Yugoslavia itself and to other countries and has shown itself to be completely ineffective. Russia cannot accept the fact of air strikes against the Serb positions because this act goes beyond the framework of the UN Security Council's decision under Article 40 of the UN Charter. Russia cannot accept the thrust of an ultimatum directed against the Serbs alone. The State Duma asks all

the warring sides to call a cease-fire, completely demilitarize the Sarajevo region, withdraw the troops and heavy artillery from the city, and place the Sarajevo region under UN control. The deputies of the Russian State Duma take the initiative of asking the parliaments of the UN member states to immediately convene a special conference on the settlement of the conflict by peaceful means.

Ostankino, Russian TV Offer Parliament Coverage

PM2102155594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by unidentified correspondent: "Directive-Like Tone Does Not Befit the Duma"]

[Text] Our correspondent asked Gennadiy Seleznev, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communications, to comment on the decree it has adopted "On Coverage of the Activity of the State Duma and Federal Assembly by Federal Television and Radio Companies."

"In my view, the Duma deputies have made a reasonable decision by not obliging anyone to cover the legislators' activity in a directive-like tone. That would violate the Law on the Mass Media. The Duma has agreed to adopt the 'Ostankino' Russian State Television and Radio Company and the Russia channel's offer to cover the deputies' work within the programs that already exist. Total coverage time will be at least two hours a week. This procedure will stay in place until the federal law 'On the Procedure for Covering the Activity of Russian Federation Organs of State Power in State Mass Media' is adopted. Note carefully that in the future the law will deal with the regulation of coverage of all branches of power, including the undeservedly forgotten judiciary.

"The Duma will have its own press service and press center and will actively operate the 'RTV-Parliament' studio and equipment complex.

"As of 28 February, our committee has been scheduled to conduct parliamentary hearings on the extremely topical issue of 'The Economic Position of the Mass Media in Russia.' It is hoped that we will jointly be able to find ways to ensure the mass media's survival."

Regional Affairs

Bilibino Nuclear Plant To Suspend Two Units

LD2002173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] The personnel of the Bilibino Nuclear Power Plant in Russia's Magadan Region has decided to suspend two generating units and may suspend the other two when their fuel runs out due to the lack of funds to make an advanced payment for the next annual fuel supply.

Customers, mainly gold mining firms, owe the plant eight billion rubles for last year. The plant's own debt has reached seven billion rubles. The plant's trade union organization has demanded help from the government.

'Main Generating Set' Switched Off

LD2102141894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The main generating set of the Bilibino AES [nuclear electric power station] in Magadan Oblast was stopped today, the POSTFAKTUM agency reports. It was stopped at the initiative of the strike committee and the management of the Bilibino AES because it is owed a considerable amount of money for the electricity supplied to consumers. The station itself owes approximately 6 billion rubles to its employees and partners, while consumers' debt to the AES amounts to 8 billion rubles. If the strike continues, most of the biggest enterprises in Yakutia and Magadan Oblast could come to a halt in the next three days.

Spokesman Denies Reactor Shutoff

LD2202132094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1215 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Reports by some news media on the strike at the Bilibino nuclear power station (Magadan Region, Russian Far East) and on stoppage of nuclear reactors there are wrong, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the state concern "Rosenergoatom", which is responsible for operation of Russian nuclear power stations.

The concern admits, however, that a difficult situation has shaped up at the Bilibino station. It is caused by the delay in payment of wages to the personnel since December last year. In one of its reports to the concern, the nuclear station's leaders say that the families of many specialists are on the brink of starvation.

The spokesman said, however, that the station continues operating as usual and strikes at nuclear power engineering industry are banned by Russian law.

The concern will hand over 500 Mn rubles Tuesday to the station workers. However, the sum is only enough to pay wages for December. The spokesman said that at all

Russian nuclear power stations the wages have not been paid since January.

The Bilibino station is a station of local importance and supplies energy for the Bilibino-Chaunskiy mining center.

Filatov Urges Change in Local Election Procedure

LD1902151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] The process of electing local authorities must be studied and adjusted, because it is not normal everywhere, Chief of the Russian president's Staff Sergey Filatov told the president's Public Chamber.

To quote Filatov, in individual regions strong efforts are being made to preserve the Soviet system of authority. Moreover, the local executive bodies are under the pressure of the representative ones.

Asked about the possibility of postponing elections to local bodies, Filatov told Interfax that the presidential decree on reorganizing the local authoritative and self-government bodies, according to which local elections must be held in the first quarter of the year, should be made more flexible.

The implementation of this document demonstrated, said Filatov, that individual regions should work out their own election schedule. If the local conditions demand that elections be held in June or in autumn, such elections should be held during these periods. He expressed hope that the most vitally important problems arising in society would be analyzed by the Public Chamber and recommendations would be given to the president and government on ways of adjusting their work and taking more reasonable decisions.

He said no one should fear lest the Public Chamber, a consultative body, might juxtapose itself to the Federal Assembly. This is a normal international practice whereby public forces gather at a round table and express their views on the most essential state problems. This is going to be the president's public relations agency, he said.

Filatov Addresses Meeting in North Caucasus

LD2202105794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Zheleznovodsk (Stavropol Territory) February 22 TASS—"Only by strengthening the statehood of the Russian Federation will it be possible to heal its sore spots," head of the Presidential Administration Sergey Filatov told a meeting of heads of the North Caucasian republics, leaders from the Don area, Krasnodar and Stavropol territories here today.

The meeting analysed the fulfilment of the presidential decree to settle the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and also the reasons why the implementation of several provisions of this document is being dragged out. The participants of the meeting mapped out agreed actions to ensure the practical reduction of tension in the region.

In Filatov's opinion, the number of "sore spots" in Russia was diminishing in spite of the difficult economic situation. "The adoption of the new Russian Constitution," the head of the Presidential Administration stressed, "has laid the foundation for further social stabilisation in the country."

"The strength of a state," he added, "depends on its unity and indivisibility, by concord among all the subjects of the Federation making it up. Therefore, the work of every regional leader should be assessed by what he has done to strengthen the Russian statehood and to resolve regional problems on its basis."

The meeting noted with concern that the settlement of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict was complicated by differing approaches and a frequent desire "to grab all the pie".

Filatov told the meeting that President Yeltsin's address to the Russian Federal Assembly (parliament), scheduled for February 24, would contain a package of comprehensive measure to strengthen the Russian state.

Tatar President Favors Decentralized Economy

MK1802132094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Kazan—Speaking on republican TV, the Tatarstan president said that "having resolved the questions of political interrelations, we shall consistently promote decentralization of the Russian economy.... I have told this to Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin, and it was met with understanding." According to him, Tatarstan should play a leading role in pursuing this policy.

In the near future a Tatarstan permanent mission will be opened in Washington, in the Russian Federation trade representation, to promote contacts between the republic's firms and enterprises and U.S. partners and to exchange information. It will enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Yeltsin Appoints Omsk Representative

MK1902130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric: "Omsk"]

[Text] President Yeltsin has appointed Boris Vasilyevich Tyulkov his representative in Omsk Oblast.

Meanwhile, Valeriy Roshchupkin, chairman of the Coordinating Council for Industrial Policy of the "Siberian Agreement" association, has said that $7 million has been transferred from Moscow to the Omsk-based Baranov Engine Making Association's hard-currency account toward payments for military aircraft engines sold to Iran over a year ago under a $35 million contract. Moscow has just begun to settle accounts with the enterprise, although the customer paid the money long ago.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Discusses Cooperation, Agreements With Clinton

WS1802135794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian president and the Government has reported that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday. During the conversation, the presidents expressed satisfaction over the dynamically developing Ukrainian-U.S. relations. In particular, Bill Clinton highly commended the political course and practical actions by the Ukrainian leadership to destroy nuclear weapons according to the recent resolution of the Ukrainian parliament concerning the START Treaty. He also expressed the hope that Ukraine will shortly join the Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. All these steps, in the U.S. President's opinion, open new possibilities for efficient economic cooperation between Ukraine and the United States both through mutual links and influential international financial institutions. Leonid Kravchuk and Bill Clinton concluded that the issues they had agreed on, after being worked on by experts and government officials, will be prepared as documents, some of which will be signed during the official visit of the Ukrainian president to the United States on 3-7 March 1994.

Official Calls For Balanced Position on Air Strikes

WS1802180294 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Ivan Drach: 'The Bombing of Sarajevo May Become Another Spiral in the Escalation of Violence'"]

[Text] After the bomb explosion at the marketplace in Sarajevo that killed 68 people, the conflict in Yugoslavia came to a head. While the ultimatum given by the NATO Council to the belligerent sides expires on 21 February, negotiations between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims in Geneva have not seen any positive results. According to the press center of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, there are two approaches in Ukraine towards the Sarajevo bombing. The first one is to support the international community, which seems inclined to resort to violent measures to stop the conflict; and second, to support Russia—openly sympathetic with Serbia and intent on delaying any forced outcome. Here is how Ivan Drach, chairman of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, commented on this issue:

I would say that the truth is somewhere in between these two stances. All those events affect the interests of Ukraine, ethnic Ukrainians living there, and Ukrainian soldiers serving in peacekeeping battalions stationed in that region. Given the above factors, let me say that our position should be well balanced. The shelling of Sarajevo is, so far, a sort of intimidating action, and not a combat operation yet. Both sides were offered one more chance for reconciliation. After all, the bombing threatens to become another spiral in the escalation of violence. This time, Serbian President Milosevic threatens all of Europe, saying that he cannot guarantee the security of UN peacekeeping forces after any air strikes. This should make all those who assumed the peacekeeping mission think twice before deciding on this serious move.

Bosnia Cease-Fire Agreement Hailed, More Efforts Sought

LD1802195894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; place and date issued not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The course of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues to be followed with great attention in Ukraine. The latest reports from Sarajevo show that, following the accord on a cease-fire reached between the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims, and with the mediation of the UN forces command, both sides have begun the process of withdrawing heavy artillery and placing it under UN supervision.

Hailing these positive movements, Ukraine calls on the conflicting sides to continue their efforts, the final aim of which should be an agreement on transferring all weapons to UN control, full withdrawal of Serbian formations from Sarajevo, and the occupation of their positions by sub-units of the peacekeeping forces. The demilitarization of Sarajevo and transfer of the town to UN management will stop the senseless bloodshed and serve as a starting point for reaching a fair and peaceful settlement.

Ukraine considers that refusal by any side in the conflict to cooperate further with the UN with regard to implementing the accords reached should be viewed as a challenge to the world community and disregard for UN decisions, and may lead to the use of force, as envisaged in the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions 836 and 844.

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs appeals to the political leaders of the conflicting sides and to the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina with an insistent call to show political wisdom namely now, and notwithstanding insults, reproaches, and distrust, to adopt a definitive stance for the benefit of peace in the region.

National Affairs

Deputies Discuss Supreme Council Agenda; NPT Not Included

LD2102233394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2230 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 21 Feb—Members of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Presidium discussed the working agenda of the Supreme Council session on 22-26 February. The issues of an all-Ukrainian referendum, Ukraine's membership in the CIS countries' economic union, and the accession of Ukraine to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] were not included in the agenda.

Participants in the presidium sitting focused their attention mainly on debating the issue of the correspondence of the Republic of Crimea's legislative acts with the Constitution of Ukraine. Vasyl Kozarenko, people's deputy of Ukraine, said this issue virtually could not be settled now because of the lack of time and absence of a mechanism whereby Crimea's legislative acts could be brought in line with the Constitution of Ukraine. Legal acts of both the president and Ukraine's and Crimea's parliaments must be assessed, in Vasyl Kozarenko's opinion, by a constitutional court, which at present is nonexistent.

The Supreme Council Presidium members included around 50 issues in next week's plenary agenda. The issue of introducing changes and amendments to some of Ukraine's legislative acts on privatization questions will primarily be tackled. Deputies are planning to address the question of mandatory social insurance contributions for 1994.

On 23 February, deputies are planning to discuss the Law on the Protection of Information in Automatic Systems in its second reading and elect a National Television Council [Natsionalna Rada po Telebachennyu]. The issue of resolving the payments crisis will also be examined.

On Thursday, 24 February, the Supreme Council will examine the Law on Corruption in its second reading. Deputies are planning to introduce changes and amendments to the Law on the Elections of the President of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The law was adopted in May 1991 and is still unchanged.

Crimean President Sees No Need To Challenge Kiev

MK1902122094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov by Aleksey Bogomolov: "Two Weeks in Power. Republic of Crimea President Yuriy Meshkov Answers MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS Questions"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Bogomolov] If the Crimeans vote for the republic's independence, would you risk challenging Ukraine in order to comply with their will?

[Meshkov] There is no need to do so, because the question of the referendum has been formulated as follows: "Are you in favor of an independent Republic of Crimea in a union with other states?" Note, the word "union" is not capitalized. This is one part of the answer to your question. The second part is that the Republic of Crimea has been restored as a subject of the Union Treaty or, quoting literally: "a subject of the Union and a participant in the Union Treaty." So, now the republic can be considered a subject of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is from these facts that the top authorities of our republic had to proceed in their activity, but they did not do so.

[Bogomolov] That is, legally speaking Crimea may be considered independent?

[Meshkov] There is a legal framework for that, but in order for it to receive a requisite confirmation we need to resort to a referendum.

[Bogomolov] Observers single out two statements of yours with regard to the Black Sea Fleet problem: that the fleet should belong to Russia, and that its fate should be resolved at a meeting between Yeltsin and Kravchuk. Many people see these two statements as mutually exclusive. Is this really so?

[Meshkov] One does not contradict the other. Under the Massandra agreement, the presidents in fact agreed that the Black Sea Fleet belongs to Russia, and it will pay Ukraine compensation for the part of the fleet that in theory was to be taken over by Ukraine in the form of specific warships. Naturally, it follows from this—both from a legal point of view and from the point of view of elementary logic—that the Black Sea Fleet is Russian and that it will be based in Sevastopol, because there has not been any talk about changing its deployment area.

[Bogomolov] Do you hope that your supporters will also win in the 27 March elections for the Crimean Supreme Soviet?

[Meshkov] Judging from the first round of the presidential elections, which were contested by all the key political forces, this hope is justified. [passage omitted]

[Bogomolov] Crimea has a strong communist movement. What is your attitude to it?

[Meshkov] Basically, I have a dual attitude to the communist movement. We should distinguish between the communist ideology and the methods of putting it into practice. The communist ideology is everlasting, as religion, as any other form of a widespread philosophy of life. In its pure form it comes down to a desire to create a perfect society, an abstract, perfect model of human existence. What brings the communist idea close to Christianity is the fact that after all they both are

founded on love of your neighbor. The natural and ineradicable human aspiration is to live better, and numerous lives have been sacrificed to confirm this desire. How this idea is fleshed out is another matter; the methods are different everywhere: from Cambodia to Cuba and from Albania to our country. [passage omitted]

[Bogomolov] Both Russians and Crimeans are concerned about one thing: Will Crimea return to the ruble zone?

[Meshkov] In theory, this has been agreed on with the Ukrainian leadership. This is possible. As for the problems of implementing this plan, this is a technical matter; the only thing we need here is help from specialists.

[Bogomolov] What is your view on the creation of a free economic zone in Sevastopol?

[Meshkov] You know, this is a somewhat idealistic desire. Sevastopol's historical and actual situation as a naval base is not conducive to this. How all advantages of the Sevastopol port and all its bays should best be used is another matter. But this problem should not necessarily be tied to the status of a free economic zone.

[Bogomolov] Finally, about the problem of the Crimean Tatars. What solution do you see to it?

[Meshkov] The main problem here is logistic support. As for purely ethnic problems, the Crimean Constitution has enshrined the equality of all nations living in the peninsula. This is from where we proceed.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Questions Sincerity of Russian Peace Role

PM1802145994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Boris Vinogradov report: "Nursultan Nazarbayev Doubts Moscow's Sincerity"]

[Text] At a press conference in New York Nursultan Nazarbayev has spoken skeptically about Russia's desire to conduct peacekeeping operations in the former USSR.

Nazarbayev did not conceal his doubts as to the "sincerity of Russia's kind feelings" for its CIS partners. The claims by some Moscow officials that Russia has special interests in these states and their bid to set up military bases there, the Kazakhstani leader stressed, do not inspire trust. He therefore proposed first looking into Moscow's real intentions in such countries as Georgia, Tajikistan, or Azerbaijan.

In President Nazarbayev's opinion, after the breakup of the USSR everything on Kazakhstan's territory is its property, so Russia has no say in the use of the scientific laboratories at the Semipalatinsk test range or the space installations.

In Washington, Nazarbayev kept himself emphatically independent of Moscow's policy, surprising even Bill Clinton. The U.S. President made an unsuccessful attempt to win his interlocutor over to the plan to pump Kazakhstani oil not through Iran and Turkey but via the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. Another $85 million in backing was promised for this project. However, the guest stuck to his guns. Fearing domestic instability in Russia, he said that he prefers to have more reliable outlets to warm seas—the Persian Gulf or the Mediterranean.

This involves a major contract with the U.S. Chevron company equivalent, according to Nazarbayev, to the "Alaskan field," and also a newly-created Caspian Shelf consortium to explore for and extract oil and gas, which includes the U.S. firm Mobil Oil. The Russian Foreign Ministry has already sent a protest note regarding the illegality of the decision to start drilling work on the Caspian seabed, since the other littoral countries had not given their assent.

However, there is every indication that Almaty ignored this, and in New York Nazarbayev once again confirmed that the highly promising project will be implemented.

En route home Nursultan Nazarbayev made a stopover in Paris, where he briefed Francois Mitterrand on the results of his successful visit to Washington. There are no plans for a stopover in Moscow.

Nazarbayev, Mitterrand Discuss Bosnia in Paris Stopover

LD1802221394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2114 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris February 18 TASS—The Bosnian conflict should be settled by peaceful means on the strength of U.N. Security Council resolutions, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said here on Friday after his talks with President Francois Mitterrand. The Kazakh leader made a brief stopover here on his way from New York to Almaty.

Addressing journalists after being received in the Elysee Palace, Nazarbayev pointed out that his arrival in Paris coincided with a "critical phase" of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "Each side should adhere to U.N. Security Council resolutions. If the resolutions are implemented, we will get every chance to arrive at a peaceful solution to the conflict," he emphasised.

Nazarbayev told journalists about the contents of his talks with President Mitterrand, pointing out that they considered a wide range of international problems, the state of affairs in Central Asia and CIS countries, in particular.

The president of Kazakhstan said "there were no divergences of opinion" during the talks. He said Franco-Kazakh cooperation develops in the proper direction, which is indicative of "a further strenghtening of friendly contacts between Kazakhstan and France." By way of example, Nazarbayev cited contracts concluded between the Kazakhstan Government and such large French companies as Elf Aquitaine, Total, Citroen, and Cogema.

"President Mitterrand and I agreed to give a boost to the functioning of the mixed economic commission set up by the governments of our two countries," Nazarbayev said, adding that the first priority task of Almaty is to strengthen bilateral cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises.

After talks in the Elysee Palace, the president of Kazakhsatn left by air for home.

Nazarbayev Interviewed Following Visit to U.S.

LD1902214794 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by Mayra Abdrakhmanova, correspondent for the television program "Sharayna"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abdrakhmanova] Tell me please, what was special about your visit [to Washington]?

[Nazarbayev] What was special was that, in comparison with the administration of President Bush, these are entirely new people, representatives of their power; young people who have positive ambitions, so as to make American society even better. And so I think that these politicians are actually working for the 21st century, and it was very important for me that the leader of Kazakhstan was able to establish normal relations and work in full mutual understanding. I can say bluntly that the United States is currently the number one state in the world, and its might and its resources, its economic potential, the scientific and technical progress there—it is actually a state which holds first place in scientific and technical progress and in the growth of its productivity. And it was very important for us to establish political and economic relations, and to enlist the support of the United States at a difficult time. Moreover, I was grateful because the United States actively supported us, so that the donor states should support Kazakhstan with advantageous credits for supporting our currency and our reforms. I think we managed to achieve a high level of mutual understanding and trust in this, both with President Clinton and with Vice President Gore.

We were one of the first CIS states to have spent half a year drafting and to have signed a Charter on Democratic Partnership. It is a very important document. The document envisages partnership on issues of exchange of scientific and technical information, economic help, and attracting American business to Kazakhstan. And the most important thing is that in one of the clauses of the Charter it says that the United States, in the event of a threat to the territorial integrity of Kazakhstan and its borders, will take active measures to involve the entire—so to speak—system, both through the UN (?and CSCE) and in the framework of NATO, because we supported the recent initiative, "Partnership for Peace," and thus we are drawn into the NATO process, and so it is a very important factor now at the time of the formation of Kazakhstan. For example, in the Ministry of Defense we signed a document on participation in conversion of defense enterprises and allocation of money by the U.S. Government for problems with conversion.

You will have heard yourselves that the Chase Manhattan Bank, the biggest bank in New York, together with Citibank—the Chase Manhattan Bank opened a fund for supporting reforms in Kazakhstan, and wants to attract the largest financial organizations to support this fund. This is very important for us, both politically and economically.

The most important thing, of course, is our mutual understanding on matters of the state of affairs in the CIS, in Central Asia, and Russia and prospects for the future of that region, and I came out of that conversation fully confident that the United States is displaying exceptional interest in Kazakhstan. And President Clinton said that America considers Kazakhstan to be one of the main states, one of the priorities of its policy and will continue its relations of trust with us both on the economic and political levels and cooperate in the defense sphere. We did not manage to take everything on board; in just one visit you cannot solve all problems. I feel the specific question was the fact that President Clinton and I decided to set up a working group which will single out all questions concerning the economy, finances, ecology, humanitarian programs, the question of training people, and attracting private and other investors. And this group will work on the whole range of questions in a brief period of time, and then we shall announce a new program of joint work in all areas.

Bilateral Relations on 'New Level'

LD2102213594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] The Kazakh delegation fufilled all the tasks it set to itself during the visit to U.S. from 13 to 17 of February. This was declared at a news-conference in Almaty on Monday by Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

In his opinion, the main accord—a charter on democratic partnership between Kazakhstan and U.S.—puts bilateral relations on a new level in terms of quality. It contains guarantees of the republic's security from U.S. and Kazakhstan's participation in multilateral cooperation within NATO's program "Partnership for Peace."

Nazarbayev stressed that the interests of Russia had been taken into account in the bilateral treaty on the non-proliferation of missile technologies, signed not only by American and Kazakh representatives but also by Yuriy Koptev, the Russian Aero-Space Agency's Director General.

The president reported that his country claimed 10 percent of the $12 Bn [billion] package, provided by U.S. to compensate for the highly enriched uranium from the SS-18 missiles to be pulled out of the republic for destruction. In his words, Kazakhstan does not seek strategic missiles control.

He noted that Bill Clinton had announced that aid to Kazakhstan would be increased a few times over. $311 Mn [million] have been allocated on top of the $85 Mn, appropriated for silos dismantlement assistance.

Nazarbayev refuted rumors that while in U.S. he had disapproved western aid to Russia. He said "stakes should be made not on persons but on democratic and economic reforms in Russia," reforms that no one will manage to turn back.

He said that since Anatoliy Chubays and Aleksandr Shokhin were still in the Russian cabinet, it could not be regarded as conservative. In his opinion, Yegor Gaydar and other reformists could influence and help reforms in Russian parliament.

Pledges To Work for CIS Integration

LD2102173294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By KAZTAG correspondent Konstantin Borodinov—TASS]

[Text] Almaty February 21 TASS—The talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton have determined the prospects for further development of bilateral relations between the United States and Kazakhstan, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said.

Speaking at a news conference devoted to the results of his visit to the U.S. in Almaty on Monday, Nazarbayev said that "an agreement has been reached to take additional practical steps to boost them (relations) in many spheres."

The signing of the charter of democratic partnership between Kazakhstan and America ushers in a new era of cooperation between the two states in order to ensure peace and stability in the Central-Asian region, he said.

The Kazakh leader stressed that "not a single step has been taken in the new Kazakh-American agreement in violation of previously adopted accords with CIS countries." However, he noted that some recent publications distort his statements. He pledged to "work for the integration of the CIS."

"Russia has always been and remains the top priority partner of Kazakhstan. The republic is destined to go along with it towards economic and social prosperity," Nazarbayev said.

He said that owing to cooperation with Russia Kazakhstan plans to extract 50-60 million tonnes of oil annually. The pipeline passing trough Europe can handle only 17 million. "We are now studying the possibility of building a new pipeline to the south, to the Persian Gulf, next century," the president added.

He said that the memorandum of defence and military relations with the U.S. is "identical to that signed with Russia six months earlier. The same can be said about the plans concerning the use of the Baykonur space center only in cooperation with Russia, on the basis of previously adopted documents."

Favorable Economic Conditions Needed

LD2102180194 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] President Nazarbayev held a news conference today on the outcome of his official visit to United States. He said: Talks with President Bill Clinton were the most important stage of the visit and determined the prospects for the development of bilateral relations. An accord has been reached to take additional practical steps in order to promote these relations in many spheres. Signing of the charter on democratic partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States means a new stage of cooperation aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the entire Central Asian region. As the result of the talks, a number of other documents have been signed which regulate contacts in the fields of science, technology, defense and military relations, and nuclear safety, and open up broad access for foreign investment in the economy of our country.

Nursultan Nazarbayev answered numerous questions from journalists. He stressed that in new Kazakh-U.S. relations, not a single step has been taken that contradicts previous agreements between the CIS states.

This is what the president said when answering a question on what the United States will get from economic cooperation with Kazakhstan:

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] I tell you again—I have been saying this for three years—nobody in the world, not a single businessman, not a single billionaire, will give a cent to anyone for nothing, besides, of course technical help, educational help, international funds, humanitarian aid and so on. Any person will come here only if he will earn more than he is earning in America. Is this [words indistinct] in the transition period we have to create favorable conditions for them so that they will come here. We will have to lose something in order to gain something. Some people in our country sometimes say that we are selling these resources and so on and so forth—every state sells what it has. Kuwait is selling its oil and living normally, developing production. Saudi Arabia is selling its oil and living normally. Iran and Iraq are selling their oil and living normally. What we are planning now is for 100 years to come. I hope that in 50 years mankind will find a source of energy that will not pollute the streets with gasoline and [words indistinct]. Japanese cars are using batteries already. That is why it is not right to say that we have to save all these minerals. Who will need them? We must sell what is sellable now in order to get currency and to develop Kazakhstan, to build up living standards for all our citizens. That is what we must do. [end recording]

Russian Commander Arrives for Talks on Border Issues

LD2102165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Almaty February 21 TASS—Russian Border Troops Commander Andrey Nikolayev arrived in Kazakhstan on Monday to discuss joint measures to reinforce state borders of the two countries.

"We want to ensure the national interests of both states on their outer frontiers," Nikolayev said at a meeting with Kazakh frontier forces senior officers. He said one of the serious problems to be resolved is the possibility for Russian officers to serve in Kazakhstan and for their Kazakh counterparts in Russia. About 270 border troops

officers have filed applications requesting their transfer to Russia, according to the Kazakh frontier forces headquarters.

On December 24, 1993, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum on cooperation to protect their outer frontiers. The memorandum stipulates that the protection of borders is their common task which should be carried out on the basis of bilateral or multilateral agreements.

If Russia and Kazakhstan iron out the existing disagreements, the talks may result in the signing of a bilateral document on cooperation in border protection. Nikolayev has been authorised to sign such an agreement by President Boris Yeltsin.

Speaking about the general situation in the Russian border troops, Nikolayev said they will number 250,000, plus 30,000 workers and employees. At present, there are 206,000 people in the border troops and more 7,000 vacancies for officer positions.

Agreement Signed With U.S. on Baykonur Cosmodrome

LD1902103994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Kazakhstan and the United States have signed an agreement on the joint use of the Baykonur cosmodrome. In today's issue, KOMMERSANT-DAILY reports that in this way, Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative to create an international consortium on the basis of Baykonur is being implemented. The agreement is signed without prior consultations with Moscow, which is given a secondary role in this project.

Tajikistan

Russian Officer Killed in Attack by Armed Group

LD2002094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0835 GMT 20 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 20 TASS—An officer from the Panj border-guarding detachment of Russian border troops in Tajikistan fell victim to unidentified gunmen.

According to Russian military sources, a 21-year-old Russian lieutenant was riding in a car together with three civilians from the place of his duty to Dushanbe when the car was fired upon from automatic weapons by a group of armed people in a border area on the night of February 17 to 18.

The Russian officer and two civilians were shot to death and the third civilian was heavily wounded and rushed to a Dushanbe clinic.

Russian Forces Engage Afghan, Tajik Gunmen

LD2102141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 21 TASS—Russian and Tajik border guards together with the units of the 201st Russian division deployed in Tajikistan are engaged Monday [21 February] in a heavy combat with a group of Afghan and Tajik gunmen who had penetrated from Afghanistan.

According to a source in the Tajik Foreign Ministry, the gunmen belong to supporters of Afghan Prime-Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and Tajik rebel Islamist movement led by Mullo Adburahim [name as received].

In the morning, several frontier Tajik settlements were shelled with missiles launched from the Afghanistan territory. No casualties or damage have been reported so far.

Russian General on Further Attacks by Rebels

LD2102174[illegible] Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Russia has threatened to retaliate if Tajik rebels continue cross border attacks on its troops and noncombatant civilians. "The responsibility will rest with those who try to resolve controversial issues in the region by violence", head of the main headquarters of Russian border troops general Aleksandr Tymko told Interfax.

Amid renewed tension on the Tajik-Afghan border, two Russian posts came under cross border mortar and rocket fire on Monday, Tymko said. In a separate incident, the rebels mounted rocket fire on one other post on Saturday. One Russian soldier was injured.

There have been more than 50 such attacks on Russian troops since early this year. Agreements on an end to the attacks on Russian posts have failed to work on parts of the border, Tymko said.

Border Guard Commander on Rebel Attacks

LD2202093594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 22 TASS—Colonel-General Boris Pyankov, commander of joint peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan, described the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border as very complex and tense. In an interview with local television Pyankov said that beginning from January, armed provocations against Russian border guards turned into a series of "incessant operations."

According to the Russian general, the situation worsened because Russian border guard posts are being predominantly shelled from the Afghan territory, which provokes Russian border guards to take measures in retaliation.

"These provocations pursue far-reaching and dangerous goals - to involve Russian border guards in fighting directly on the territory of Afghanistan so as to hold Russia responsible for conducting military operations on the territory of a sovereign state," the Russian general said. At the same time, the command of Russian border guards in Tajikistan cannot remain indifferent to endless shelling of Russian border guard posts and the death of Russian servicemen. Beginning from January, border guard posts and border guard units came under intensive rocket fire launched from the Afghan territory 21 times. There are casualties among Russian servicemen and considerable material damage was caused to some military settlements on the border.

Pyankov pointed out that the Tajik irreconcilable opposition which stakes on military settlement of the Tajik conflict has no chances to win. Coalition peace-keeping forces stationed in Tajikistan, including Russian border guard troops, are strong enough to rebuff any external aggression against sovereign Tajikistan. Hopes pinned by the Tajik irreconcilable opposition on the support of the population are illusory, the Russian general said.

Pyankov pointed out that there are separate anti-government groups in Tajikistan, but the majority of the population do not support them. "People are tired of war and they welcome efforts made by the present Tajik leadership to stabilise the socio-political situation, reach civil peace and prevent another civil war in the republic," the Russian general said.

He pointed out that this should be brought home both to leaders of the Tajik irreconcilable opposition and certain military-political forces in Afghanistan who not only objected to the creation of bases of Tajik militants on their territory, but who are rendering them direct assistance in carrying out military operations against Tajikistan.

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Supports Russian Peace Initiatives

LD1902141094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0915 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 19 Feb,—The Armenian authorities are convinced that there is no alternative to a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict and that all strong-arm methods to resolve it are doomed to failure. This is stated in a statement published here today by the Armenian Foreign Ministry's press and public relations service.

The Armenian side, the statement says, considers that any mediation mission seeking a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh will only bear fruit if it involves plenipotentiary representatives of the lawfully elected authorities of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service issued the statement in connection with pronouncements by Azerbaijan's foreign policy department accusing the Armenian leadership of pursuing a policy of acting from a position of force and of continuing the occupation of Azerbaijan lands.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service statement emphasizes that the republic's authorities support all peacemaking efforts to establish peace in the region, including the CSCE and the Russian Federation initiatives.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Azerbaijan Statement

NC1902210594 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] On 17 February Baku Radio and later other mass media disseminated a statement by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry that accused the Armenian leadership of trying to talk to Azerbaijan from a position of strength and for continuing the occupation of Azerbaijani territories. This propagandistic argument was based on the fact that the Armenian Foreign Ministry has rejected to participate in a scheduled meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani experts in the Norwegian capital of Oslo.

As is known, the international non-governmental public organization International Alert is sponsoring this meeting.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry press and public relations service is authorized to state the following: The Armenian authorities are convinced that any mediation mission aimed at settling the Karabakh conflict can be productive only if the plenipotentiary representatives of the legally elected authorities of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic are included in the negotiating processes.

Attempts to resolve the Karabakh problem through talks between the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan show that, despite the developments over recent years, certain international circles have failed to grasp the essence of the problem.

Despite periodically disseminated disinformation, the Armenian authorities have defended and continue to defend all peacemaking efforts for the establishment of peace in the region, including those of the CSCE and Russia. This is revealed by the existing initiatives, the constructive stance shown, and positive responses by Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia is convinced that there is no alternative to a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict. All strong-arm methods to resolve the conflict are doomed to fail.

Georgian Premier Holds Economic Talks in Yerevan

NC2102200394 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia arrived in Yerevan today. During a meeting at the Armenian Government offices, the Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and Otar Patsatsia discussed economic cooperation between the two countries, including the gas supply, protection of the gas pipeline, train transportation, and other matters of mutual interest.

The Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan, and State Minister Gagik Shahbazyan also took part in the meeting.

The Georgian prime minister left Yerevan today.

Fails To Reach Agreement, Departs

LD2102195094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1853 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 21 TASS—Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia left for home today after he failed during a one-day visit to reach an agreement with Armenian leaders on disputed economic matters, a source in the Armenian Government told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Patsatsia was received by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Premier Grant Bagratyan behind closed doors. Although the contents of the talks were not made public, they apparently dealt with the problems of transporting Armenia-bound goods via Georgian territory.

Patsatia refused to sign an agreement proposed by Yerevan according to which Georgia should bear more responsibility in case natural gas supplies were cut off or limited, the source said.

Armenia receives natural gas through a pipeline passing across Georgia which has several times been exploded.

Also disturbing for Armenia is that cargo trains with wheat and other goods destined for Armenia come from Georgia with delay or are plundered while passing through its territory.

Azerbaijan

'Dozens' Killed in 'Heavy' Karabakh Fighting

LD1802175194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1616 GMT 18 Feb 94

[ARMENPRESS correspondent—TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Feb—Heavy fighting is continuing in the north of Karabakh. An ARMENPRESS correspondent was told in the defense headquarters of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic that today Karabakh units succeeded in repulsing the enemy and drove them back beyond the Omar pass. The Azerbaijanis left dozens of dead on the field of battle.

Azerbaijani forces today again attacked in the Mardakert Rayon sector. Karabakh units are containing the attacks. Other sections of the front are relatively quiet.

Baku Confirms MiG-21 Shot Down by Armenians

LD1802204394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] On Friday evening Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reconfirmed to Interfax that an Azerbaijani military aircraft was brought down in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on February 17.

At the same time Baku asserts that it was MIG-21 but not SU-19 aircraft. According to Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the aircraft was shot down not above Armenia's Vardeniz region but above the village of Yanshag in the north of Azerbaijan's Kelbadjar region.

Baku has no information about the fate of the pilot.

Earlier Armenian sources reported that Armenian air defense forces shot down a SU-19 fighter and captured the pilot. They asserted that the aircraft had violated Armenia's air space.

The Defense Ministry also reported that Marat Ishkenov, a 45-year old resident of Kyrgyzstan, a retired officer, and a Tatar by nationality was the pilot of this aircraft. He allegedly reported that every month he received salary in the Azerbaijani army totalling $1000 and $300 per every combat flight.

Azeris in Georgia Said Attacked by Armenians

NC2202042494 Baku TURAN in English 1714 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, February 21 (TURAN)—The situation in eastern Georgia for the Azeri population has become aggravated. According to the Georgian correspondent for TURAN, conditions vis-a-vis Georgia's Azeri population worsened following a January 30, 1994 incident when armed Armenian terrorists killed three Azeris in the Tezekend village in the Bolnisskiy region of Georgia which borders Armenia.

According to the same source, last week bandits attacked and robbed the home of Mamed Guliyev, a resident in the Gyzyl-Hajyly village.

Around the same time, unknown individuals fired at two buses riding along the Baku-Marneulinskiy route from a bridge over the Khrami River in the Marneulinskiy region of Georgia.

The society, "Ozan", supporting the interests of the Azeri community in Georgia, demanded that local authorities punish the criminals. Judging by the political and social conditions in Georgia, this appeal, like the previous ones, will not likely be answered.

Georgia

Abkhaz Armed Forces on 'Highest Level' of Readiness

LD1802141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1350 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb—The highest level of combat readiness was declared today in the Abkhazian Armed Forces. According to a report of the press service of an authorized spokesman of the Abkhazian republic in Russia, this is in connection with the active regrouping of Georgian troops on the Georgia-Abkhazia border along the Inguri River.

According to the same information, early this morning the Coast Guard forces of Galskiy Rayon averted an attempted landing by Georgian assault forces. The Abkhazian Defense Ministry believes that there is still a danger of an incursion by subversive groups.

Abkhaz Government Appeals to Russia To End War

LD1902110794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0600 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] We are broadcasting an appeal by the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia:

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the State Duma of the Russian Federation:

Highly esteemed sirs, you are well aware of Abkhazia's tragedy. Despite many agreements, from Sochi to Geneva, perfidiously violated by the Gudauta side, savage bloody orgies conducted by bandit units comprised of or hired by Abkhaz separatists, the so-called Confederation of the Caucasian Mountain Peoples and

Cossacks still continue. With the excuse of fighting partisan forces, they are brutally exterminating the Georgian population in Gali Rayon. Dozens of villages and hundreds of houses have been burned down. Escaping from the persecutors, over 3,000 people have fled to the mountains. Of these, several hundred people froze and died from the cold and hunger. Mass killings that are being carried out with particular cruelty are accompanied by rape, dismemberment, burning, and so on.

The situation in the whole of Georgia is so tense that processes may become unmanageable and irreversible. At present, 300,000 desperate refugees are able to take extreme and undesirable actions at any time and even to arm and go en masse to their homeland, Abkhazia [words indistinct].

Therefore, if urgent and decisive measures are not taken on the basis of the Russian-Georgian agreements, as well as the United Nations' fundamental documents, tragedy will be unavoidable and it may be followed by a new, more large-scale and bloody Caucasian war, which may also involve Russia.

Someone must eventually bring an end to these bloody orgies by the extremely impertinent representatives of the separatists and Russian reactionary forces and their henchmen. Leaders of far and near abroad, and Russian leaders and members of parliament in particular, must know that having usurped a group of Abkhaz separatists in the autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, succeeded in provoking a war after thorough and long preparation. The dictatorship of Ardzinba's fascist clique is by no means the same as the Abkhaz people and, moreover, the whole multinational population of Abkhazia.

The world community has given an unequivocal assessment of the separatists' activities, regarding them as genocide, ethnic cleansing, and a crime against humanity. All these barbaric actions are happening while the world civilization is flourishing and ideas of humanity, democracy, and human rights are expanding in advanced states.

Highly esteemed sirs, the arrival in Georgia of an honorable delegation from the Russian Federation led by Boris Yeltsin and the signing of the historic treaty have engendered high hopes in the hearts of the whole multinational population of Georgia, especially the refugees exiled from their homes in Abkhazia who are suffering extreme hardship.

The Council of Ministers of Abkhazia appeals to you, esteemed sirs, to take decisive and radical measures for an urgent peaceful settlement of the conflict between the Abkhazians and the Georgians at last, and have the genocide and ethnic cleansing by the Georgian population of Abkhazia stopped, as well as to remove the threat to the very existence of the Abkhaz nation whose genetic stock is on the brink of extinction.

[Signed] The Council of Ministers of Abkhazia, Tbilisi

Shevardnadze Seeks Postponement of Cabinet Approval

LD2202153294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] When opening a routine Georgian Supreme Council session today, Eduard Shevardnadze requested that deputies postpone for two weeks approval of the composition of the government, saying there was no point in approving or rejecting current ministers during such a tense period.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on U.S. Trip

LD2002152794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0600 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, you have been in touch by telephone with the White House, obviously about your forthcoming visit to the United States. Taking into consideration the complex situation—I mainly mean the economic crisis and the Abkhazian problem—what is the significance of this visit for Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] The issue of this visit has long been on the agenda. A number of variants have been under consideration in Washington regarding the most acceptable date for the United States and us. Last night I was informed by the White House and later by the Ambassador Kent Brown that the White House is ready to schedule this visit for 7 March and that everything pertinent to a visit like this must be done. [passage omitted]

There are countries in which we have a particular interest, including England and some other countries, Uzbekistan and certain republics of the former Soviet Union, but I think that by beginning these new relations with the United States and by preparing a legal basis we will have completed quite an impressive circuit from the point of view of expanding our political and diplomatic arena.

This is in general. In detail, I do not want an impression to be created that after the visit we will have electricity, sugar, and bread and we will have abundance. It never happens like this. But the way to this is connected with Russia as well as the West and the United States in particular. [passage omitted] This visit should become a guarantee of future active cooperation between Georgia and the United States and this cooperation will do good to every family and every citizen. This is the major aim of the visit.

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, there is a committee in support of Georgia in the United States. Do you think the activities of the committee are limited to moral and political support, or is this committee involved in other activities?

[Shevardnadze] This is not a symbolic committee. I would like to point out that the committee has worked since the preparations for the visit started and will actively work during my visit. [passage omitted] Relations with the IMF and the World Bank are of a particular interest for me. Preliminary preparatory work for the meetings has been done and I think the U.S. Administration as well as the World Bank and IMF will consider the current situation in Georgia. Since we are more or less moving in the direction of peaceful settlements of conflicts and are establishing order in the country, I do not think we shall return emptyhanded. Guarantees resulting from the visit for credits, an increase of humanitarian aid, and concrete supplies of products or currency will apparently be substantial. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] You have said that you will have meetings at the IMF, at the Reconstruction Bank [as heard]. In addition, the press has reported that the committee in support of Georgia is preparing your meeting with businessmen. I think we have to infer that the visit in general and the meetings will have a link with an anticrisis program in our country.

[Shevardnadze] There is much talk in Georgia about anticrisis programs and ways to escape from the crisis, which mainly result in an implication that if the present government quits and another one comes in everything will be all right. I do not think like this. Changes can always be introduced in the government, into every line of power, but this will obviously be only a detail rather than a means to survive.

We have drafted a program on getting out of the crisis. I have said that it is an optimum program to be implemented. However, we are not rushing to reveal the draft program to the people for consideration because we have to get certain guarantees, not only within the country but also from the outside world. I was not able to present the program to our community until relations with Russia were settled. It can only be in a fairy tale that the crisis can be overcome without the restoration of economic links of vital importance with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and others. This is one thing.

Second, I cannot offer the population an anticrisis program unless I have certain guarantees from countries like the United States, Germany, to some extent France, and especially the whole UN system with the IMF, the World Bank, the European Bank, and the European Union. [passage omitted]

As we start to develop economic relations with Russia, I will be able to offer the draft we call an anticrisis program. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] How about the Abkhazian conflict in which combat activities have renewed despite the intervention of the United Nations and other international structures?

[Shevardnadze] I have expressed my opinion on this issue several times. Indeed, Russia's role and place is indispensable and unique in a way. If the Russian leadership is inspired in the same way as we felt during President Yeltsin's visit to Tbilisi, these conflicts, one and the other, will be settled and order restored relatively soon. It does not mean, however, that I am not capable of assessing a role for the West. Especially as regards actions taken by the United Nations, the participation of European structures and...[pauses] I have to tell you that we have received the UN secretary general's reply to a letter Yeltsin and I sent him. It does not contain many promises, but I know that comprehensive work is under way, so to speak, in the lobby, including Washington, to work out all conditions. Here is the first condition: If a political process for a settlement starts, the deployment of international peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia will become more real.

I am positive that this will be one of the principal issues of our discussions. [passage omitted] I envisage that our visit to Washington will reveal the expediency of a visit to New York. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] Finally, Mr. Shevardnadze, do you think that this visit could affect Rusian-Georgian relations negatively because there is a certain disagreement, if I can say so, between Russia and the West? There really is a certain annoyance due to relations with Serbs.

[Shevardnadze] I think that your question is a reflection of the general feeling which may arise within our public. Even those who are against the improvement of our relations with Russia will immediately put forward this question: Shevardnadze is going to Washington and this is yet another mistake by him because it might annoy Russia. I would say that this is a simplified approach to serious politics.

You know that our Western friends' advice and recommendations—letters from and personal conversations with Chancellor Kohl, the former U.S. President, and the present President—were based on the idea that Georgia is to be able to establish good relations with Russia as soon as possible. The Russian leadership knows perfectly well what kind of attitude the West has toward Russian-Georgian relations. Then why should the more active development of relations between us and the United States cause annoyance within the Russian leadership?

Georgia can play a positive role not only in the CIS but also in preventing a recurrence and revival of what we used to call the Cold War and what the planet paid a high price for, if Georgia has very good relations built on a legal basis with the United States and other Western countries. So I cannot see any contradiction or foundations.

There will be certain speeches and certain actions in the State Duma or elsewhere. Our so-called friends will not miss a chance to pinch us, to bite us. Something like this will take place but, in principle, this is a natural process we have been following for the recent two years. I think

we are gradually approaching what is desirable for us and are creating advantageous conditions in the outside situation for the interests of the building of our national democratic state.

Shevardnadze Discusses UN Aid Programs

LD1802173194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, met Teodor Starcevic, the head of the UN mission in Georgia, and supervisors of various UN programs today. During the conversation the issue of the Geneva talks on a peaceful settlement of the situation in Abkhazia, which are to be held under the aegis of the United Nations, was discussed. Also discussed was the forthcoming meeting between the Georgian head of state and the UN secretary general at UN Headquarters.

The Georgian head of state was informed about the results of the activities of the mission during the past one and a half years. It was emphasized that at the end of last year the UN mission repeated its appeal for aid for Georgia. Various countries have already responded to the appeal.

New aid programs are being drawn up. The UN mission has planned certain measures aimed at improving the situation in the spheres of shipping goods by railway, sea, and air. This will ensure goods are shipped without losses and safely. Specifically, the UN mission has purchased 10 diesel locomotives that will make it easy to move goods in the situation of severe fuel shortages not only in Georgia but also in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It was also indicated that UNICEF [UN Children's Fund] has drafted a long-term program for shipping baby food, shipping medicines for children, assisting children's hospitals, and immunization.

At the end of the meeting, Eduard Shevardnadze thanked the UN mission and its head for what has been done. He requested that to eliminate delays or losses of goods, private firms should be excluded from humanitarian activities and only state structures should be relied on. Shevardnadze emphasized that diesel locomotives purchased for the Georgian railways would eliminate problems not only from our country, but also from Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A letter was sent to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali requesting speedier UN participation in the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict.

Shevardnadze Discusses Privatization

LD2102152994 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 2051 GMT 20 Feb 94

["Excerpt" of concluding speech by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council, at meeting on privatization held in his office in Tbilisi on 20 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] The issue of proprietors. So far, ministries have the richest experience in it. They have an experience in cooperation in its comprehensive meaning, in relations with other countries and cooperation within the country, within the republic. Therefore, as far as I know a move toward contract relations has been observed in many ministries, in the Ministry of Industries for example.

A certain group of people has purchased a certain enterprise like a shop, a production workshop or an agricultural facility. However, it has not broken away from the state, from the ministry and it begins a new sort of relations with similar organizations on the basis of reciprocal payment, of course. These relations should be beneficial for the ministries and ten times more beneficial for this privatized enterprise.

Otherwise, the majority of enterprises will not be able to survive competitiveness in, say, the Central Asian market, or the Russian market, and so on, to say nothing of the West European market. Each enterprise needs to be developed daily and annually. To be developed technically, to develop technology and administration and so on. An individual enterprise will find it very difficult. It will take a long time for an enterprise to establish links and relations with Europe, Asia, and other countries and enterprises and they will not have enough possibilities. Therefore, ministries may become indispensable as partners of enterprises like this. If our ministries take up a principle of partnership with such enterprises, they will be needed in future by the country and especially by these enterprises.

Underground privatization is an issue to be considered separately. I think a special group should be created within the Cabinet of Ministers in this respect, of course on the basis of your ministry and involving, in my opinion, representatives of the prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice, lawyers and our lawmakers and some of these cases should be legalized. Who are the participants in this underground privatization? [passage omitted]

The principal participants in so-called underground privatization are those who work at the enterprise. These are managers, chief engineers, and others. This is a collective. I think that we have to change our hostile attitude toward this corps of managers which has an inclination to transfer enterprises to a new concept. Because, regardless of our desire, these people are the best professionals and they are capable of transferring a certain enterprise or a certain facility to a new concept relatively painlessly. Someone will find illegal benefits in it, someone will become rich but I think even a newcomer should become rich, anyway. [passage omitted]

When a plant or a factory or any other facility transfers to market economy, it will test its abilities itself. If they do not fit new requirements they will be filtered by the life. Natural selection will take place. [passage omitted]

There should apparently be a list of systems and organizations which are required by the state as something to

rely on and a source of its power and which cannot be subjected to privatization. I cannot agree with the public view that a collective should not have an advantage in privatizing its enterprise. [passage omitted]

I do not want us to be enslaved by the idea that the state must own 51 percent of all enterprises. I do not support this idea. Its share may be 60 percent, or 10 percent. To establish obligatory share for every enterprise and facility means to create obstacles along the way we want to take. [passage omitted]

In order to secure the basis for normal development of privatization we need rather a labor-consuming process of taking inventory on all our property, everything possessed by us, I mean the state. When we know what is in our possession we will be able to act with more courage. [passage omitted]

I would not delay the process of introducing vouchers. I am also in a way sceptical in this respect but later a redistribution of the property will take place. For instance, I can buy some property for, say, 100,000 coupons and if I fail to use it I will sell it for a higher or lower price. A redistribution, which is essential in the society developing in the way of market economy, will take place. [passage omitted]

Now, the issue of selling property for coupons. If we decide to sacrifice Georgia to the coupon, let us do it. I do not consider it a sin to regard the dollar as a principal criterion for the evaluation. The evaluation has to be done in dollars and then, if we insist that the coupon remain the only legal tender, let us accept the payment in the coupon equivalent of the dollar price. [passage omitted]

The best way to save the coupon is the revitlization of the economy. The best form is the development of entrepreneurship, proprietorship. [passage omitted] But I think that when we speak about the state property, the dollar must be considered as the principal unit of valuation.

About the concentration of the means received as a result of privatization. I am against including these in the general budget. I would back up an idea that these means should be accumulated in a fund created at the Ministry of State Property Management or in some other shape. The sum should accumulate at the bank. In case the sum freezes, it will not be worth a penny. The sum must be in circulation. And, in the first instance, I would return the money to entrepreneurs, to private business and I would give a new momentum to the business. [passage omitted]

Yet another point to be discussed. A law on bankruptcy must be initiated. I do not know when this will happen because now, with the current energy crisis, everyone is bankrupt and all enterprises must be sold. But it will not keep on like that, I suppose. I believe, the situation will improve in some time and then this law will be passed. It must be done by all means. Generally, laws that are passed, must be implemented and the bankruptcy law in particular.

Finally, a few words about the press. The press is not represented well here. There are some here but it is insufficient. [passage indistinct]

We speak about reforms frantically. This is a reform. What else is a reform? This is one of the most important parts of the reform. How can you blame the government for not implementing reforms when you yourself do not know what a reform is? If you do not know, come and let us learn together. I cannot say that Avtandil [Silagadze] has presented an ideal report but it is the best that can be presented today. There will be a new one, a better one in a year's time, because he will gain something from me, I will gain something from him. We are learning from each other. If we work jointly, we will advance along the road of reforms. Otherwise, only slogans remain. [Some say] we are the party which has a program of national salvation and something like this. This is a sheer paper and nothing else. These are empty phrases and nothing else. Programs of national salvation can be drafted only during a process of relations like this. I mean a process of learning and working together, criticizing one another, helping one another and looking for a way out of a political or economic crisis together. [passage omitted]

Power Station Resumes Operation

LD2202145794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 22 TASS—Supplies of drinking water to homes have resumed in Georgian capital Tbilisi, and the city's telephone exchanges, bakeries andother vitally important services after a break caused by cuts in electricity supplies since Saturday.

The Tbilisi thermal power station, the main suuplier of electricity to the republic, is operating again, and three of its ten power units will soon reach their capacity output of 500 kilowatt per hour each.

The director of the Tbilisi power station told ITAR-TASS that a special committe has been established to investigate the causes of the breakdown. It may have been caused by the overload of the Georgian power system, which is now cut off from the power systems of the neihbouring Russia and Azerbaijan. "This is why we cannot get hooked up to them in an emergency as before," he said.

According to the director, the three power units can operate now but two of them will be kept in reserve. The other seven are worn out and need a capital overhaul, which can hardly be expected to be made soon because of Georgia's severed economic links with other former Soviet republics.

Estonia

Agreement Close on Paldiski Naval Base

LD1902163994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Estonia and Russia are close to concluding an agreement on dismantling the nuclear training center at the former Soviet naval base in the town of Paldiski near Tallinn. [passage omitted]

During the talks, Russian Vice Admiral Viktor Ovchinnikov confirmed readiness to allow IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] specialists into the center, however, only after the removal of the nuclear rods and secret equipment.

Paldiski Objects to Control by Neighboring Town

WS2102161494 Tallinn BNS in English 1651 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 19, BNS—Residents of the former Soviet military base town of Paldiski at a meeting with Estonian Population Minister Peeter Olesk Friday [18 February] said they are opposed to the government's plans to subordinate the town to the nearby municipality of Keila until local elections can take place in Paldiski itself.

Olesk, together with a representative of the Estonian Armed Forces in the town, Colonel Raul Luks, and the government's special representative Juri Tikk met with an audience of about 300 Paldiski residents.

Participants in the meeting adopted a resolution in which they welcomed the government's move to register a new the town's legal residents. "At the same time they say Paldiski shouldn't be subordinated to the town of Keila for any period of time," Olesk said today.

The minister said it was unrealistic to hold early elections in Paldiski. Estonia left Paldiski out of the list before last fall's local elections, because of the large number of Russian military remaining there, as well as for refusal by the local Russian police office there to turn over the files of legal residents' and car registers.

Olesk said it was cheaper to put Paldiski under the authority of Keila than to set up a temporary governor's office in the town itself.

The government approved the plan to put Paldiski under Keila's municipal government on Feb. 15. The temporary scheme of governing is to remain effective until local elections are held in Paldiski.

Alleged Submarine Base Not Found in Paldiski

WS1802133694 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1937 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Raul Luks, the freshly appointed governor of Paldiski, a former Soviet nuclear training base in northwest Estonia, proved wrong rumours about a secret underwater(-land) submarine port in Paldiski.

Luks told ETA, on Thursday [17 February], that having investigated the whole territory of the Paldiski ports, he found no sign of such a base. Port specialists also assure that the existence of an underground port in Paldiski is "pure fantasy" and construction of such a base could, especially if the ground conditions of Paldiski were taken into consideration, have been impossible to hide.

Rumours of an underground building started when plans were made to build tunnels to bring cooling water for the nuclear reactors from the sea, which was not realized for the Baltic Sea was declared nuclear-free.

UN Envoy Supports Ultimatum on Bosnian Serbs

WS1802172994 Tallinn ETA in English 0825 GMT 18 Feb 94

[From 18 February RAHVA HAAL, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 34/94]

[Text] Friday, February 18—Estonian Ambassador to the United Nations Ernst Jaakson announced that Estonia supports the ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, threatening to use air raids unless the heavy weapons be removed from the environs of Sarajevo. Jaakson admitted that the situation in Bosnia had deteriorated lately and pointed out the open support to the Serbian aggressors by some Russian political forces.

Jaakson expressed the Estonian views on the issues. Estonia does not support the ending of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of the UN forces nor the ending of the economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro before the signing of a peace treaty in Bosnia. Estonia also supports the countries demanding an end to the ban on arms sale to the Bosnian Muslims, who represent the lawful government of Bosnia, Jaakson declared.

'Partnership for Peace' Commission Set Up

LD1802172594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] By order of Defense Minister Juri Luik, an interdepartmental commission has been set up to prepare the Partnership for Peace cooperation program on the Estonian side. The commission is led by Toivo Klaar, head of the Foreign Ministry's policy department. Members of the commission are: Aivo Oras of the Foreign Ministry, Tarmo Molder, the Defense Ministry's deputy chancellor, and Mart Tiru, head of the defense forces headquarters administration.

Laar Sees Privatization as Priority Task

WS2102161194 Tallinn BNS in English 1651 GMT 20 Feb 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] The privatization of large enterprises is the main task the Estonian Government has to cope with this year, Prime Minister Mart Laar said at a meeting with foreign journalists in Tallinn.

Laar described two different ways of privatization that the country was now going to use. First, the state companies that are making a negative profit will be sold by auction, like in the previous stages. He added that it were the prospective guaranteed investments by the potential buyer rather than the auction price itself that was decisive in deciding to whom to sell.

In the case of successful state businesses, 49 percent of the shares are to be sold to Estonian residents for their privatization vouchers, while 51 percent will go to investors.

Estonia also faces a growingly important task to increase the pace of development in the regions now remaining outside the active business areas, which so far mainly comprise the country's capital, Tallinn, and its closest surroundings.

Laar said changes were needed in the situation when 90 percent of foreign investments are coming to Tallinn.

The prime minister also said that the period following last fall's local elections had provided hope for a normalization of the situation in the northeastern region. The former, confrontation-bound local government in the region earlier scared off potential investors from the area, but now an inflow of money can be expected in the large companies of the region, Laar said. Immediate plans include selling the Kreenholmi Manufaktuur textile giant in Narva to foreign investors, reportedly—Swedish.

As the third-important task for his government, Laar mentioned creating a legislative basis for business development.

Armed Men Force Entry Onto Russian Air Base

WS2202103394 Tallinn BNS in English 1917 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 21, BNS—Russia has issued an official protest following an incident last night when five armed men reportedly forced their way into a gatewatch lodge of the Russian air base at Amari, northwest Estonia, searching for weapons and later setting the lodge on fire.

The officer-on-duty at the headquarters of the Russian garrison in Tallinn and local police in the nearby town of Keila both confirm the incident took place at 2.45 a.m. Five men, some of them wearing masks, had stopped their car near the gates of the Russian base.

The assaulters had been carrying one rifle, one pistol and one hunting rifle.

The Russian senior lieutenant in charge of the guard, who opened the door of the guardhouse after hearing the noise of a car engine, received a blow at the head. The men, who then entered the guardhouse, asked the lieutenant and another Russian military in the room, a sergeant, if they had any weapons. After getting a negative answer, the gang ordered the two military out of the building and to lay on the ground with faces in the snow.

The five drove away in the same LADA-type car after pouring gasoline on the guardhouse and setting it on fire. Nobody was injured in the incident.

The Russian military say the men had first spoken Estonian, and afterwards, Russian with an Estonian accent.

These reports have been confirmed by the commander of the Russian base, Col. Mikhail Kovalyev, who declined to provide any further information.

Estonian police officials in the town of Keila said they will start investigation into the incident by first meeting the commander of the base.

Estonian Ambassador Juri Kahn was called in at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow today to receive Russia's official protest.

Officials at the Central Staff of Estonia's armed forces said they had no information so far on possible participation of Estonian military or the paramilitary Defense League members in the assault.

The aide-de-camp of Estonia's commander in chief, however, said it was surprising that Estonia was first informed of the incident only through Moscow, since Russian military at the Amari base until now had always contacted the Estonian central staff if any problems emerged.

Estonian top officials have issued no comments so far.

The base at Amari is the last of former Soviet air force bases in Estonia that remains under Russian control. Russia has taken away all combat aircraft from Amari, but the landing field there is frequently used by Russian military transport planes.

Latvia

Yeltsin Prepared To Discuss Bilateral Issues

LD2102174194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] State President Guntis Ulmanis received Aleksandr Rannikh, Russian ambassador to Latvia, today. Rannikh handed to Ulmanis a message from

Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In it Yeltsin expresses the wish to further develop Latvian and Russian Army withdrawal from Latvia and other issues related to this. In addition, Yeltsin indicates the readiness to meet the Latvian state president in Moscow to tackle many issues concerning bilateral relations between Latvia and Russia.

Yeltsin also expressed his opinion on the legal status of Russians living in Latvia, speaking about Latvian legislative and public processes. Yeltsin pointed out the possibility of developing in the future qualitatively new relations between Latvia and Russia strengthening cooperation in political, economic, and social spheres.

Lithuania

Russian Military Train Enters Without Permission

LD2102165894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Excerpt] This weekend on the state border: A Russian train carrying 26 military armored vehicles crossed the Lithuanian state border from the Kaliningrad side on Saturday night. The Lithuanian border guards were not been informed about this train in advance.

Colonel Pranas Dragunaitis, head of the headquarters of the state protection service, told the Baltic News Service correspondent that the Lithuanian border guards only learned about the military cargo after the arrival of the train at the Kybartai post on the border with Kaliningrad region. The armored vehicles were accompanied by armed Russian servicemen who did not have the necessary permission issued by the Lithuanian Ministry of Internal Affairs to transport weapons.

It was decided to allow the train to cross the border so that the dangerous cargo should not get stuck near Lithuania. The border protection servicemen watched the train all the time to ensure that the armored vehicles would not detrain on the way.

The train with the armored vehicles left the territory of Lithuania crossing the Kena border post on the Belarusian border without incident at 0500 on Sunday.

According to Colonel Dragunaitis, the working group for negotiations with the CIS should reach an agreement with Russia as soon as possible on the procedure of such transit, so that no conflicts should arise in the future. [passage omitted]

Brazauskas on Military Transit to Kaliningrad

LD2202143994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Report by BALTIC NEWS SERVICE]

[Text] President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas said that without Lithuania's consent there cannot be any uncontrolled military transit to the Kaliningrad region, and that no secret negotiations were being conducted with Russia about such an agreement.

According to the president, a draft agreement received from Russia last week is a new matter and the working group for the negotiations with CIS countries has to analyze it.

Speaking about the Russian military transit from Latvia and Estonia to Kaliningrad, President Brazauskas pointed out that it was necessary to help the Baltic states to have the Russian troops withdrawn, and for that reason the above transit should be kept open. This would only assist our common objectives, said the president.

Brazauskas Argues for EU, NATO Membership

PM2102095394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Own Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov article: "Lithuania: If You Want to Join NATO You Have to Be Worthy of It!"]

[Text] Vilnius—Lithuania's "testing of the soil" in NATO has ended with the signing of the "Partnership for Peace" treaty. This was one of the main ideas of the recent visit to Brussels by Algirdas Brazauskas, the country's president. At the same time the head of state stressed in particular that in beginning to participate in the "Partnership for Peace" program Lithuania's clear ultimate goal is to become a full-fledged member of NATO.

However, he said, more and more people in Lithuania are coming to realize that the desire alone is not enough. "We ourselves are obliged to create in our country not only the military basis for integration but also the political, economic, and psychological basis corresponding to the level of the NATO states," he stated.

Meanwhile time some interesting details of the visit have emerged. The leaders of the supreme headquarters of the armed forces in Europe were particularly cautious in talking about Lithuania's possible full membership of NATO. Lieutenant General Klaus Steinkopf, special adviser to the armed forces in Europe, called the "Partnership for Peace" program an invitation to take part in a common security system. He noted that this was the first time that NATO had gone outside the limits of its traditional territories to cooperate closely with other states in Europe.

Gerhard von Moltke, policy adviser to the NATO secretary general, said that the organization does not want a new division of Europe or new lines drawn on the maps. "We want to cooperate with Russia, Ukraine, and other states," he stressed.

By signing the main document of the invitation to "Partnership for Peace," according to its president, Lithuania is expressing a readiness to start work on

exercising democratic control of its defense structures and on a process of openness with respect to the defense budget, joint planning, exercises, and maneuvers. "We are working toward the creation of opportunities for cooperation with NATO forces in such spheres as peacekeeping operations, search and rescue operations, humanitarian aid, and so forth," he said. "Lithuania sees its integration with NATO as a complex evolutionary process which will require great intellectual and material resources."

In the president's opinion, Russia's statements on its special interests in the neighboring foreign countries or on the territory of the former Soviet Union do not fully accord with the spirit of international law and the "Partnership for Peace." He is particularly alarmed by the statements on Russia's special interests in the Baltic states. A. Brazauskas expressed the view that the admission of the Baltic and other Central European states into the European Union and NATO would be a powerful incentive to economic and political reforms in those countries. He is convinced that this would also give significant support to the strengthening and continuity of the democratic processes in Russia. The Lithuanian leadership approves the Western states' efforts to help Russia implement its political and economic reforms and create a democratic Russia.

Landsbergis Views Russian Deployment in Bosnia

LD2102115694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Report by Madona Luckaite on news conference at the Seimas on 21 February]

[Excerpt] [Words indistinct] Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Seimas, speaking at the news conference regretted that Lithuania, as a future NATO member, has not voiced her position concerning the NATO initiative in Bosnia to stop the terrorist shelling of Sarajevo.

Russia wants to fortify its positions in Bosnia, therefore, political and diplomatic aspects of the fact that Russia is coming to Bosnia with its armed forces will be of great importance. Also, it is not yet clear if this is taking place with the consent of the government and president of Bosnia-Herzegovina. So far there have been reports that Russia has declared its intentions to deploy its peacekeeping forces around Sarajevo. The statement made by the government of Bosnia is also known, Vytautas Landsbergis said, that they do not trust the Russians who are supporting the Serbs.

Because the military participation by (?Bosnia) in the UN forces has already begun it will be important to know whether the Russian troops coming to Sarajevo will be seen as Russian troops or as part of the United Nations military units.

This is also important to Lithuania because attempts to distort the history and the situation in the Baltic states are continuing. For example, there have been hints of this following the statements made by the Latvian politicians in the press about whether Latvia was occupied. It will not be beneficial if this issue has to be discussed, Vytautas Landsbergis said. In the meantime the danger caused by Russia has been directly noted by the Estonian leadership.

A clearer position toward the Baltic states was presented by the British foreign secretary in Riga. He separated the issue of the troops withdrawal from other issues, Vytautas Landsbergis said. [passage omitted]

Israel's Mossad Seen Increasing Activity in Country

MK1802115094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 3

["M.P." report: ""Mosad' is 'Mosad' in Lithuania Too"]

[Text] The KURANTY editorial office has learned from competent sources about the release from custody in Vilnius of an Israeli citizen held on suspicion of complicity in the assassination of V. Lingis, deputy chief editor of the Lithuanian newspaper RESPUBLIKA. This fact is explained by the increased activities in Lithuania of the Israeli "Mosad" intelligence service. In particular, to secure the release of their compatriot and to neutralize possible negative reaction regarding Israel, this special service brought into play its contacts among Lithuanian parliamentarians. Publications in local mass media aimed at preventing a rise of anti-Israel sentiments in this Baltic country have simultaneously been inspired. Investigation into Lingis' assassination is continuing.

"Mosad" is showing heightened interest in the situation in Lithuania also because the press, including RESPUBLIKA, carried reports about the role of dummy Israeli firms in illegal arms deliveries to the country from abroad.